



For Immediate Release

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***ENZI APPLAUDS ADDITIONAL AID FOR STUDENTS AFFECTED BY KATRINA;  
RELIEF FUNDING FOR GULF COAST SCHOOLS TOTALS \$2 BILLION***

**Washington, D.C.** – U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, today praised the announcement by Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings that some \$60 million in new aid will be provided to schools damaged by last year’s hurricanes in the Gulf Coast region. Nearly \$2 billion in hurricane relief funding for public and private schools have been provided by Congress and the Bush Administration in the aftermath of last year’s tragedies.

“As Chairman of the HELP Committee, I commend the Administration for their efforts to rebuild our schools and breathe new life into those communities,” Enzi said. “These additional funds help to rebuild, restart school operations and meet the education needs of displaced students in Gulf Coast states. The aftermath of Katrina left this country with unprecedented challenges. This aid is one more step in the right direction to address those challenging needs.”

Of the \$60 million in foreign aid, \$30 million will be awarded to higher education institutions damaged by the storm in Louisiana and Mississippi. This funding will be used mostly for reconstruction. Another \$30 million will be awarded for K-12 education in Louisiana. This funding will be used largely for reconstruction of libraries, science laboratories and other physical assets.

Today’s announcement by Secretary Spellings follows unprecedented congressional action during the 2005-2006 academic year to provide \$880 million in reimbursement funds for public, including charter, and private schools that enrolled students displaced by the hurricanes. Last year, Congress also committed \$750 million in funds to help damaged schools in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas access services, equipment, and supplies as they rebuilt. Moreover, Congress has provided \$250 million to assist higher education systems in states impacted by last year’s hurricanes and for colleges and universities enrolling displaced students.

For more information on the Department's support for the Gulf Coast region, please visit <http://hurricanehelpforschools.gov/index.html>.

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