

CONFERENCE ON SCHOOL SAFETY
Tuesday, October 10, 2006

Introduction of Mrs. Bush

ANNOUNCER: Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings.
(Applause.)

SECRETARY SPELLINGS: Hello again. Welcome back. I hope you all had a good break. I know you've enjoyed the program this morning as we all have. We've had a chance to learn about effective strategies, both from the law enforcement perspective and from the school and educator perspective on how we're going to keep our students safe. This afternoon we're going to hear about how to cope and how to recover, how to restore the educational environment. And we're going to hear some very inspiring stories from some of the survivors.

But first, we have a special treat, and it's my great honor to introduce my friend and our fabulous First Lady, Mrs. Laura Bush, who has been an incredible source of great comfort to our country and to its children after 9-11 and after Hurricane Katrina. She is a teacher first, as well as fabulous First Lady, former school librarian. And she continues to travel not only all over our country, but all over the world to promote learning, safe environments and literacy for children all over the world.

She last year launched a fabulous initiative that is totally connected to what we're talking about here today. And it's called Helping America's Youth. And it's an initiative that recognizes the holistic, the community-based approach that we need to take when it comes to school safety as well. And I would encourage you to look at the HAY website, the Helping America's Youth website, HAY as we call it, HelpingAmericasYouth.gov to find out more about that initiative.

In good times and bad, our nation is incredibly lucky to have such an inspiring educator, a wonderful mom and a great friend, our First Lady, Mrs. Laura Bush. Thank you.