
EDUCATION & LABOR COMMITTEE

Congressman George Miller, Chairman

Strengthening America's Middle Class

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**CHAIRMAN KILDEE STATEMENT AT SUBCOMMITTEE
HEARING ON “SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
UNDER THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT – HOW TO
IMPROVE QUALITY AND ACCESS”**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – *Below are the prepared remarks of U.S. Rep. Dale Kildee (D-MI), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education for a subcommittee hearing on “Supplemental Educational Services Under the No Child Left Behind Act – How to Improve Quality and Access.”*

I'm pleased to welcome my fellow Subcommittee Members, the public, and our witnesses, to this hearing on “Supplemental Educational Services Under the No Child Left Behind Act – How to Improve Quality and Access”. Including supplemental educational services in the No Child Left Behind Act was a significant addition, and implementation of those provisions has presented many challenges at the federal, state, and local level. But it also was an important addition, and today's hearing will play a critical role in the committee's efforts to understand how these provisions are working and where they can be better implemented or improved so that the law's goal of providing every student with a world-class education – a goal we all share – can be realized.

Last August, our first witness, the Government Accountability Office, found, among other things, that states and school districts needed much more assistance from the Department of Education to fully and successfully implement these services. Today, GAO will testify that the Department has made progress in that area.

I also look forward to hearing from our state and district witnesses on whether they have seen that progress on the ground. We will hear from the state of Maryland about its efforts to ensure quality services and to reach out to parents, and also about the challenges states face in ensuring access in rural areas and for students with special needs. As many of you know, since 2005, the Department of Education has established two pilot projects concerning supplemental educational services, and we are fortunate to have with us a participant from each pilot.

The Boston Public Schools will describe their experience with the pilot that allowed school districts in need of improvement to continue acting as service providers, and how that affected both the quality of and access to supplemental services.

And Newport News will tell us about having switched the order of public school choice and supplemental services, so that supplemental services were offered first. Both of these pilot projects represent important issues for us to discuss during reauthorization, and I am pleased we have the opportunity to hear directly from these participants.

Finally, the Citizens' Commission on Civil Rights will give us what they describe as both the good and the bad news about implementation – that while parents generally are satisfied, there also remains much work to do to increase access.

Of course, one challenge that has been ongoing for five years is funding. We owe it to our children to ensure that their schools have the resources and support to provide them with the education they need and deserve.

Since 2002, Congress and the President have underfunded No Child Left Behind by \$56 billion. The President's proposed budget for 2008 would underfund the law by another \$15 billion, for a total of \$71 billion. However, I am hopeful that with the new Congress, we will start to do better.

But, having said that, I look forward to working together with my Ranking Member, Mr. Castle, our full Committee Chairman and Ranking Member, Mr. Miller and Mr. McKeon, and with all the Members of the Committee, on a bipartisan reauthorization of NCLB this year.

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