



For Immediate Release

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ENZI FOCUSES ON EXPANDING LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES; URGES DUNCAN TO HELP RURAL SCHOOLS MEET UNIQUE CHALLENGES

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, today told Arne Duncan, nominee for Secretary of Education, that he plans to work with the Obama administration to improve student achievement and expand lifelong learning opportunities for all Americans.

“We can’t afford the lost economic opportunity that results when students drop out or face barriers to continued learning,” Enzi said at a confirmation hearing for Duncan. “Congress and the Department of Education need to work together to make sure that every school has the tools and flexibility they need to help students develop the knowledge and skills to be successful.”

“I am particularly concerned about the unique challenges that rural and frontier students and schools face,” Enzi said.

Enzi said he hopes to work with Duncan to ensure that more students graduate from high school on time and prepared for postsecondary education and the workplace. Enzi also reaffirmed the need for “a lifetime of opportunities for learning, training, and retraining for every American.”

“Some education beyond a high school diploma is critical to at least eight out of ten new jobs being created,” Enzi said. “We need to help more students enter and complete education and training programs that will prepare them for the high skills, high-paying jobs of the 21st century.”

“There are going to be areas where we disagree,” Enzi told Duncan. “But my hope and expectation is that by focusing on solutions, we can produce meaningful results for our students and schools.”

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