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House of Representatives

RECOGNIZING IMPERIAL HIGH SCHOOL: RECIPIENT OF 2006 DISPELLING THE MYTH AWARD!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Imperial High School, in my Congressional District, the only high school in the Nation to receive a 2006 DisPELLing the Myth Award, an award of the Education Trust. Five schools were presented this award by Department of Education Secretary Margaret Spellings on November 3, 2006, as part of the Education Trust's 17th National Conference on "Closing the Achievement Gap."

Imperial High is described in the award program as a school "just a few miles from the Mexican border. Seventy percent of Imperial's students are Latino, many of whom are English language learners. Seven years ago, the school was considered chaotic and low-performing. After identifying students who need help and support, matching instruction to standards, and encouraging students to think beyond high school graduation, Imperial is now considered a California Distinguished School."

There are 773 students in grades 9-12 at Imperial High. Principal Lisa Tabares and her teachers

deserve great praise for the caring environment and high standards they have developed in which remarkable accomplishments are achieved by their students.

The Education Trust, funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation of New York and eight other Foundations, has worked since 1990 for the high achievement of all students, focusing especially on schools serving concentrations of low-income or Latino, African-American or Native American students who, because of their environment, may need assistance to achieve at high levels. Their DisPELLing the Myth Program honors high-performing and gap-closing schools that serve large populations of low-income or minority students.

The four other schools so honored in 2006 are Capitol View Elementary in Atlanta, GA; East Millsboro Elementary in Millsboro, DE; M. Hall Stanton Elementary in Philadelphia, PA; and Port Chester Middle School in Port Chester, NY.

“These schools provide compelling evidence that when we teach students to high levels and focus on closing the achievement gaps, students succeed,” said Kati Haycock, director of the Education Trust. “These schools are a testament to the power of committed educators to transform the lives of children who too often get less than their fair share of what public education has to offer. We owe these educators a great deal of gratitude.”

As an educator, one of my top priorities is to provide a quality education for each and every child. I am proud of the principal and teachers and especially the students of Imperial High School for their achievements. I sincerely thank them for their contribution to the community of Imperial.