

hearing on the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act.

In listening to testimony from various individuals today, it was impressed upon me that all of us involved are seeking the same goal: the best possible educational opportunities for our children.

Today, at a time when our Nation lags behind other countries in math and science testing and the Federal government has a larger role in education than ever before, this Congress must find a way to give our schools greater flexibility, reduce the bureaucracy involved in education and ensure these opportunities really are being given to our children.

In years past, Congress has attempted to solve problems in education by simply throwing piles of federal money into the education system.

The original purpose of No Child Left Behind was to return some education policy-making authority to the states.

Unfortunately, during the process of crafting, passing and enacting the legislation, No Child Left Behind took the form of a massive spending bill that increased the Federal government's presence in classrooms.

As the Detroit News stated in a December 22, 2006 editorial, "What our federal legislators come up with in the Nation's capital doesn't always translate well into the classroom."

The editorial continues, "Michigan should have the flexibility to decide how and when to measure student progress."

My daughter-in-law is a hard-working and talented teacher who has experienced firsthand the problems No Child Left Behind creates for teachers, parents and students.

As a classroom teacher forced to teach to the tests required by No Child Left Behind, she actually considered quitting because of the paperwork and restrictions imposed upon her. She struggled to have time to give individual attention to each of her "special needs" students.

Ironically, she obtained her teaching position due to her performance the year prior as a "permanent" substitute teacher in a classroom. Because she was not required to fill out all the forms and paperwork required by No Child Left Behind, she excelled, and the school offered her a permanent position.

In its origin, No Child Left Behind attempted to provide greater school choice and reduce Washington's involvement in education, but instead this expensive and largely unsuccessful legislation has broadened the scope of the Federal Government's role in education.

Enshrined in our Constitution is the 10th Amendment, which reads, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved for the States respectively, or to the people."

Federal control of education is listed nowhere in the Constitution, and in accordance with the 10th Amendment, education should be the responsibility of State and local governments.

Because I believe each child's educational path should be determined by a child's parents, and not by the Federal Government, I am an original co-sponsor of the A-PLUS Act.

The A-PLUS Act would give States, teachers and parents the freedom and authority to determine what educational path a student should take.

As part of this legislation, States can opt out of Federal programs and State leaders decide how to use Federal education funds to improve student achievement.

We all are seeking the best possible educational opportunities for our children, and the way to achieve this is let States and local communities be accountable for academic achievement and educational reforms.

HONORING REX HANSON

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rex Hanson, an exemplary citizen from my district who was recently named recipient of the LaRue County School's 2007 Excellence in Classroom and Educational Leadership, ExCEL, Award.

A math teacher at LaRue County High School in Hodgenville, KY, Mr. Hanson has worked to give his students the strong math and science skills needed in today's high tech world. Through his position as the Mathematics Department chairman, he has worked hard to strengthen the math curriculum in LaRue County, spearheading a program that allows high school students to receive college credit through Campbellsville University. This program continues to allow students in LaRue County to get ahead as they make the transition from high school to college.

Mr. Hanson's teaching philosophy is to challenge his students to become the best that they can be in whatever career path they choose once they leave high school. This philosophy has greatly served LaRue County and Kentucky's Second District.

President Bush has placed a strong focus on math and sciences as the country moves into a global economy. I believe Mr. Hanson is a fitting example of this charge. In addition to his position as the Math Department chair, Mr. Hanson is an advisor for the National Honor Society, senior class sponsor, ACT school coordinator, and teaches classes for Elizabethtown Community College.

I applaud Mr. Hanson for his accomplishments in public education, a profession of great responsibility and even greater reward. On behalf of many others in the Hodgenville area, I would like to express my profound appreciation of his service.

It is my great privilege to recognize Rex Hanson today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his special achievement. His unique dedication to the development of young people and the communities they will someday serve makes him an outstanding citizen worthy of our collective honor and respect.

A TRIBUTE TO MAYFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL AND MAYFIELD SENIOR SCHOOL

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to Mayfield Junior

School and Mayfield Senior School as they celebrate their 75th Anniversary of Holy Child education in Pasadena, California.

In 1931, the Mayfield School was founded by the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus. Under the philosophy and tradition of Cornelia Connelly, the Mayfield Schools are committed to educating the whole child, by providing a learning environment balancing academic excellence with the arts, athletics, community service, and spiritual growth.

The Mayfield Schools embrace seven goals developed by the Society of Holy Child Jesus founder Cornelia Connelly. These goals seek to provide an intellectually challenging and creative program of study that fosters academic excellence and to create a learning environment based on trust and reverence for the dignity and uniqueness of each person.

The Mayfield Schools have long been committed to community involvement and voluntary service. Upholding their motto of Actions not Words, both students and alumni have dedicated themselves to community enrichment and demonstrated the principals of compassion, integrity and leadership—characteristic of a Mayfield education.

Under the guidance of devoted teachers and faculty, the students of the Mayfield Schools have achieved great success. Over the past 75 years, more than 2,000 young men and women have graduated from Mayfield Junior School and more than 2,800 women from Mayfield Senior School.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring the Mayfield Junior School and Mayfield Senior School upon the celebration of their 75th Anniversary. The entire community joins me in thanking the Mayfield Schools for their outstanding educational opportunities for the youth of California's 29th District.

HONORING BILL AND MURIEL ELLIOTT AND DREW KATZ

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. and Mrs. Bill and Muriel Elliott for their hard work in creating the John R. Elliott HERO Campaign, which promotes the use of designated drivers. The HERO Campaign, named after their late son, Navy Ensign John Elliott of Egg Harbor Township, NJ, began in 2000 when he was killed by a drunk driver.

I also rise to honor Mr. Drew Katz of the Interstate Outdoor Advertising Company of Cherry Hill, NJ. Mr. Katz graciously offered assistance to the Elliott family by providing billboard space to promote the HERO campaign. Partnered together, the Elliott family and Mr. Katz are helping to make the roads a safer place for all New Jerseyans. The Elliott family's commitment to their son and to this cause is truly inspirational. I also thank Mr. Katz for his generosity and commitment to his community.

The Elliott family and Mr. Katz's commitment to the John R. Elliott HERO Campaign has served New Jersey well, and I hope that they continue their vital efforts. I thank the Elliott family and Mr. Katz and wish them success with the HERO Campaign in the future.