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## *House of Representatives*

*Statement of Congressman Michael N. Castle  
In Honor of  
the 20th Anniversary of the MegaSkills Program*

*July 31, 2008*

**Mr. Castle.** Madame Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the MegaSkills program on the program's 20th anniversary. The MegaSkills program helps parents and guardians assist their children in reaching their academic potential by providing a clear road map and guidelines to success.

The MegaSkills program was created in 1988 by Dorothy Rich, a resident of Sussex County, Delaware. The program was started with the goal of teaching families how to help their children succeed. Based on the idea that family involvement is fundamental to learning, the program is designed to instruct families on how to instill habits and behaviors in their children that make up the "Never-ending Report Card" which includes confidence, motivation, effort, responsibility, caring, teamwork, and others.

When I served as Delaware's Governor, I had the privilege of visiting the town of Seaford to honor the teachers, students, and families who participated in one of the first MegaSkills programs. It was clear even then that MegaSkills had tapped into one of the secrets of early education: parents and guardians who are involved in their child's education at home ensure that they get the best education possible in the schools.

Over the years, the program has proven to be highly successful in early childhood education and is now used in over four thousand rural and urban schools across the nation. Recently MegaSkills completed a new MegaSkills for Babies and Toddlers book to help parents ensure their children receive the best education possible. Furthermore, the program has been applied in various different languages to accommodate our diverse population.

MegaSkills has demonstrated its success in increasing time students spend with their parents, their motivation on homework, and performance on standardized tests and I acknowledge and commend the MegaSkills Program for twenty years of successful dedication to improving education throughout the United States. The creators and administrators of this program understand what we all need to understand in order to improve our education system: strong families yield strong students with a passion for academic excellence. I am confident the MegaSkills program will continue to expand and benefit educating families nationwide.