



For Immediate Release

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***ENZI STRESSES NEED FOR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES TO
WORK TOGETHER, IMPROVE PREPARATION TO ENSURE
SCHOOL SAFETY***

Washington, D.C. – Following the President’s Conference on School Safety, U.S. Senator Mike Enzi, R-WY, Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, today urged schools and communities to work together to ensure that schools are safe places of learning for America’s students.

“Every school in America needs a comprehensive plan of action to combat violence – one that gives parents and local leaders a central role in improving school safety by working with school personnel, law enforcement agencies, and social agencies,” Enzi said. “Being safe means being smart and prepared – we cannot afford to be complacent when it comes to protecting our children.”

President Bush today convened a summit of education, law enforcement, and security experts to discuss strategies and offer practical solutions to prevent violence in schools.

Enzi praised Bush’s leadership on the issue, and encouraged schools and communities to work together to find local solutions to prevent school violence and improve safety. He stressed the importance of having concrete plans in place to prevent violence from occurring and to respond quickly and efficiently if it does.

“Teachers and administrators alone cannot do the job of taking back school yards and study halls from criminals, but Washington cannot provide a uniform cure that fits every school either.”

“For too long, our response to school violence has been reactive,” Enzi said. “We need to take a proactive stance to stop violence and promote safety. It is important for everyone – students, parents, teachers, administrators, community members and elected officials – to get involved to protect their schools.”

“I commend the President for hosting this conference, and I thank all of the participants for their important contributions,” Enzi said. “This summit provides a forum for open dialogue that is critical to getting the word out about improving school safety, and determining what works, and what does not.”

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