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### Hoekstra Introduces Bill to Free States from No Child Left Behind

U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra introduced H.R. 1539, the Academic Partnerships Lead Us to Success Act (A-PLUS), which would free states from the federal requirements tied to funding under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and grant states the flexibility to implement initiatives that best meet the needs of their particular students.

NCLB created a one-size-fits-all approach to education when students and schools are very unique with very different needs that require different approaches.

Under A-PLUS, all states would have the option of providing the Secretary of Education with a "declaration of intent" to assume full responsibility for the education of their students under the legislation. They would continue to receive federal support, but they would be free to advance their own policies.

For more information and updates on the legislation visit: <http://hoekstra.house.gov/Issues/Issue/?IssueID=1173>

### U.S. Passport Agencies Not Meeting Increase in Demand

U.S. passport agencies are currently failing to meet an increase in demand for passports. Instead of the normal six weeks, it takes 10 weeks or more to process routine applications.

The State and Homeland Security departments announced that U.S. citizens traveling to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda who have applied for but not yet received passports can temporarily enter and depart the United States by air with a government-issued photo identification and Department of State official proof of application for a passport through Sept. 30, 2007.

If you need a passport, do not wait until the last minute to apply for travel documents. Citizens with pending passport applications can obtain proof of application at <http://travel.state.gov>.

### Hoekstra Authors Immigration Op-Ed

U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra recently penned an op-ed on immigration reform and the Senate bill currently under consideration.

To view the op-ed, visit: <http://hoekstra.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=67633>

### New Technology Used to Connect with Constituents

U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra recently began using a new technology for reaching constituents in the form of telephone town hall meetings. The new format features a live dialogue between Pete and constituents, allowing participants to receive direct responses to their questions or simply listen in on the conversation.

Congressman Hoekstra anticipates using the format in the future as it is a great way to hear what is on the minds of people in West Michigan. Expect a call to participate in the next few months if you have not already had the opportunity.

For more information on Pete's activities in Washington, D.C., please visit <http://hoekstra.house.gov>

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