

Michaud Praises Release of Stimulus Education Funding for Maine

Wednesday, April 01 2009

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Congressman Mike Michaud praised the announcement that \$44 billion for states and schools is now available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (H.R. 1). Maine schools will receive approximately \$18.6 million in Title I funds and \$29 million in Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funds immediately. These figures represent the first half of the funding for these two programs made available to Maine. The remaining installment is expected to be released in the fall.

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Congressman Mike Michaud praised the announcement that \$44 billion for states and schools is now available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (H.R. 1). Maine schools will receive approximately \$18.6 million in Title I funds and \$29 million in Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funds immediately. These figures represent the first half of the funding for these two programs made available to Maine. The remaining installment is expected to be released in the fall.

“Maine school districts are struggling with tight budgets,” said Michaud. “This funding comes at a very important time. I have been fighting to properly fund IDEA for years. It is a huge unfunded mandate for our state and local school systems. This funding will help alleviate burdens on our local school systems. Overall, education investments made in the stimulus package will create jobs, improve schools, save education jobs, and prevent other cutbacks that could be detrimental to our children’s education.”

In addition to Title I and IDEA investments, the economic recovery plan also created a state stabilization fund to help support state and local budgets and reverse harmful cuts to education. Guidance for applications for state stabilization funds are available today and states can now start applying for the funding. The funds can go to a number of purposes including to backfill harmful cuts to K-12 and higher education, to stave off teacher layoffs, and to modernize school facilities – which will create new jobs. Maine is slated to receive a total of \$193.5 million under this program.

IDEA is the major federal program that provides funding for special education and related services to students with disabilities. The Title I program provides funds to low-income school districts that are in even greater need during the economic downturn. The funds appropriated through the Recovery Plan are distributed through previously established IDEA and Title I formulas.

#