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## **Bipartisan Family Engagement in Education Act Introduced Today in U.S. House of Representatives**

*Legislation would engage parents as partners in raising student achievement*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** (May 5, 2010) – U.S. Representatives Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY-4) and Todd Russell Platts (R-PA-19) today introduced the Family Engagement in Education Act (H.R. XXXX) which would strengthen family engagement in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act that Congressional leaders have said they would like to reauthorize this year.

National PTA<sup>®</sup>, the oldest and largest volunteer child advocacy association, has championed this bill along with leading researchers and practitioners, philanthropic groups, and policy experts in the field of family engagement. Founded in 1897, PTA continues to advocate to ensure every child is successful in school and in life. Over 40 years of research has shown that partnering with parents, regardless of their socioeconomic status or educational background, improves student achievement and graduation rates.

“Children spend over 70 percent of their waking hours outside of school,” says Charles J. “Chuck” Saylor, National PTA President.

“If we are serious about closing the achievement gap, parents must be at the table. This legislation is a critical first step in ensuring a sound partnership between parents, the community, and schools to increase student success.”

The bill would provide incentives to districts and schools to implement best practices, such as parent leadership academies, placing family engagement coordinators in schools, and professional development for educators on how to partner with families.

**PLACEHOLDER FOR McCARTHY QUOTE**

**PLACEHOLDER FOR PLATTS QUOTE**

The Family Engagement in Education Act would also strengthen the sole federal program dedicated to parent engagement, the Parental Information and Resource Centers (PIRCs), to scale-up research-based strategies for engaging families. PIRC currently serve over 16 million parents in all 50 states.

### **About National PTA**

National PTA<sup>®</sup> comprises millions of families, students, teachers, administrators, and business and community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of parent

involvement in schools. PTA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit association that prides itself on being a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for public education. Membership in PTA is open to anyone who wants to be involved and make a difference for the education, health, and welfare of children and youth.