

Congressman Joe Sestak
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Prsrt Std

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INSIDE:
AN UPDATE ON EDUCATION

A Key Pillar of Our National Security



“Security isn’t just the defense of our nation. It’s also about having an educated workforce so America continues to compete globally. Our role as world leader depends upon our success in teaching our youth properly.”

— U. S. CONGRESSMAN JOE SESTAK

COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY SUMMIT

Thursday, January 24
6:00 – 9:00 pm
Neumann College
Meagher Theater

One Neumann Drive, Aston, PA 19014-1298

Panel discussions addressing the rising cost of a college education and the accessibility of student loans, scholarships and grants.

Representatives on hand to explain and answer questions on the financial aid process.

To pre-register for the event, please contact Ann Watters in my District Office at 610-892-8623 or ann.watters@mail.house.gov

For more information, please contact Congressman Sestak’s office:

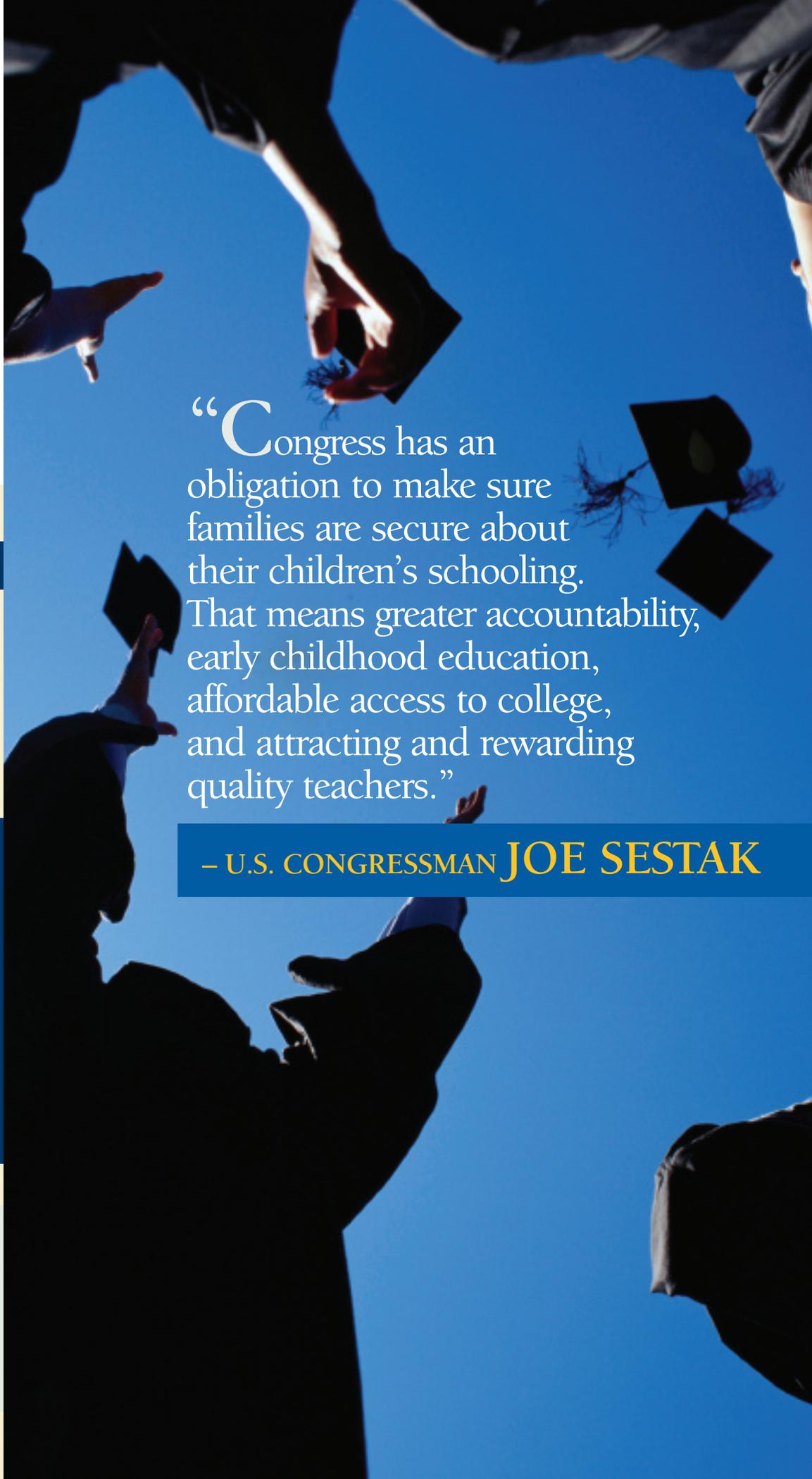
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A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of several graduates in black gowns and mortarboards against a clear blue sky. Some graduates are in the foreground, their hands raised as they toss their mortarboards into the air. The scene is celebratory and bright.

“Congress has an obligation to make sure families are secure about their children’s schooling. That means greater accountability, early childhood education, affordable access to college, and attracting and rewarding quality teachers.”

— U.S. CONGRESSMAN **JOE SESTAK**

Congressman JOE SESTAK

is working to give our children the education they deserve
...and that our country needs.

“Children need more than just the basics in school. They should be given the education and skills to compete for quality jobs anywhere – be it in their hometown or with any country in the world.”

— U.S. CONGRESSMAN JOE SESTAK



ABOVE: CONGRESSMAN SESTAK DISCUSSES EDUCATION ISSUES WITH STUDENTS AT A LOCAL SCHOOL.

Joe Sestak made education a top priority by fighting for a spot on the Education and Labor Committee.

Since then, he's been a key participant in the effort to enhance the accessibility, quality, affordability and funding of education, from pre-K through college:

1. Giving our youngest children an early start to a good education.

Joe has pushed to improve early childhood education access by:

- Expanding Head Start to tens of thousands more children
- Ensuring half of Head Start teachers have a bachelor's degree
- \$154 million in additional Head Start funding
- Co-sponsoring an amendment to award matching grants to states to improve pre-school programs

2. Addressing concerns from first grade through high school regarding the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) by working toward:

- Allowing growth models that recognize progress over time
- Permitting more than test scores to measure student learning and school performance
- Accurate assessment of the performance of students with disabilities
- \$1.6 billion in additional funding for NCLB and \$555 million for the education of children with disabilities



JOE DISCUSSES THE IMPORTANCE OF READING TO SCHOOL CHILDREN AT A DISTRICT EVENT HONORING PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION.

3. Addressing the rising cost of college tuition and cleaning up the college financial aid mess.

Over the years, the cost of college education has skyrocketed, while the loan system to help students pay for college has lost its way. Therefore, Joe has pushed for a number of reforms, including:

- Increasing the maximum Pell Grant from \$4,050 to \$5,400 over the next five years and expanding eligibility
- Cutting student loan interest rates from 6.8% to 3.4%
- \$837 million in additional financial aid
- Cleaning up the relationships between student lenders and colleges, while streamlining the Federal Student Financial Aid process

4. Providing incentives for teachers.

Joe is working to ensure that we increase the supply of quality teachers through incentives, including:

- Student loan forgiveness for Head Start teachers
- Pre-paid tuition assistance for students who commit to teaching a high-need subject in a high-need school for four years
- Increase of 10,000 science and math teachers, annually