

LARSON BRINGS EDUCATION SECRETARY'S STATE OF AMERICAN EDUCATION MESSAGE TO THE DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 22, 2000

LARSON BRINGS EDUCATION SECRETARY'S STATE OF AMERICAN EDUCATION MESSAGE TO THE DISTRICT
HARTFORD – A high level teaching official from the U.S. Department of Education, various state education officials, and local college students studying to be the next generation of teachers, were brought together today by U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-01). Larson hosted the group at a satellite broadcast of the seventh annual State of American Education Address by U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley, and moderated a panel discussion on education at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford following Riley's address.

Highlighting Larson's panel of education officials was Dr. Therese Knecht Dozier, Special Advisor on Teaching to Secretary Riley. Dozier is helping to bridge communications between the nation's teachers and the Department's top policy makers by soliciting teachers' views, and by presenting the teacher's perspective on various issues. She traveled from Washington to participate in Larson's panel discussion.

Following Riley's remarks, Larson engaged the education officials in a discussion with teaching students from Trinity College. As a former teacher, Larson said that he hopes the students "will be inspired by the Secretary's challenge to improve our schools, and to help students perform to the best of their ability."

In addition to Dr. Knecht Dozier, other panelists at the satellite broadcast included Dr. William Cibes, Chancellor, Connecticut State University; Rosemary Coyle, Vice President, Connecticut Education Association; Sharon Palmer, Vice President, Connecticut Federation of Education and Professional Employees; and Robert Rader, Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Boards of Education.

During his address, Secretary Riley discussed the progress that has been made in education since his first address in 1994, and will challenge schools and communities to renew their commitment to ensure that all students achieve their fullest potential in the 21st century.

Larson is making progress on his efforts to, as Secretary Riley stated, "ensure that all students achieve their fullest potential in the 21st century." Last week the House passed an amendment he offered to bring together the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and other federal agencies to prepare a report that determines the most effective and economical means of providing all public elementary and secondary schools and libraries in the United States with high-speed, large bandwidth capacity access to the Internet.

Larson, who is a member of the Science Committee stated, "America is leading the world in technological advances that are revolutionizing our lives on a daily basis, and setting the pace for the global economy. Unfortunately, most of our public education system and our libraries are neither equipped nor financially prepared to take advantage of this technological revolution. The passage of this amendment will go a long way toward helping students compete in our digital economy."

###