

NEWS RELEASE

From Congressman Joe Moakley, 9th District, Massachusetts

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MOAKLEY APPLAUDS AMERICA'S TEACHERS

Congressman Joe Moakley today saluted the American teacher as "one of the single most important reasons excellence is reentering our nation's schools."

Moakley, citing a bevy of studies which show student standardized test scores rising and access to education being expanded to the disabled, said that while much work still needs to be done to improve education, "we can safely say that strides have been made."

The key to education reform, Moakley said, rests in "hiring quality teachers who are trained in the basics and are committed and inspired to teaching our youth." To attract such individuals, however, the nation must be willing "to pay them as we would pay any professional," Moakley said.

While teacher salaries are starting to improve nationwide, Moakley said that the vast majority of teachers today earn "far less than they deserve, considering what an important role they play in shaping our future leaders."

Moakley applauded the rise in Scholastic Aptitude Test Scores registered last year, and said much of the credit for the increase rests with "support from within the home and from within the classroom, namely, the teachers." Scores on the standardized tests jumped by the largest margin in 20 years last year, with the average SAT verbal score rising to 431 and mathematics up to 475.

"Every one of us can point to at least one teacher we've had over the years who helped shape our lives," Moakley said. "It's about time we took a moment to thank them for a job well done."