

people together to get it done. Mr. Chairman, you did a fabulous job, and I thank you.

I want to thank the other Members of Congress who are here: Mike Castle is here from the State of Delaware; Van Hilleary from Tennessee; Johnny Isakson from Georgia; Tim Roemer from Indiana; Bobby Scott from Virginia; and a delegate from Puerto Rico, Delegate Anibal Acevedo-Vila. Thank you for all coming here today.

And then we're going to pass some of the power, as you know—you'll hear soon—out of Washington, and it's going to be up to the Governors to make things happen. And fortunately, we've got four fine Governors with us today: Roy Barnes of Georgia; Sila Calderon of Puerto Rico; Mark Schweiker of Pennsylvania; and my brother. Thank you all for coming.

Republicans and Democrats share the same basic commitments on education. We believe good public schools should not be islands of excellence. They should be found in every city and in every neighborhood in America. We believe that no child should ever be written off, because every child is important, and every child can learn. We believe education is a national priority and a local responsibility, that Washington should be giving our schools help, not giving them orders. We share these convictions, and we have acted on them. We have given new tools of reform to teachers and principals, local and State officials, and parents. Now we must finish the job.

We have a great task to complete, and everyone has responsibilities to meet. Those responsibilities begin in the classroom. The No Child Left Behind Act provides new training opportunities for teachers to develop their professional skills and their knowledge. The law gives incentives to hire and train teachers, and it backs up teachers who impose reasonable discipline in their classrooms. We want teachers in charge of their classrooms, not plaintiff's attorneys.

We're also putting more resources into the classroom. This year, the Federal Government will spend more than \$22 billion on elementary and secondary education, an increase of more than 25 percent over last year. Because of our commitment to assist low-income students, we will increase spending on Title I by 18 percent. Because teachers are so important, we will increase spending on teacher training by 33 percent. And because reading is the gateway to all learning, we will more than triple Federal funding for early reading programs. We are willing to spend more for education, and we will spend it on what works.

In return for this commitment, my administration and the American people expect results. We expect every child to learn basic skills. We expect failing schools to be turned around. We expect teachers and principals to do their jobs well, to have a firm grasp on their subject matter, and to welcome measurement and accountability.

All who have chosen the noble profession of teaching should know this: We are counting on your energy and your imagination to make these reforms real for America's children. You have our confidence, and you'll have our support.

Local and State officials have responsibilities, as well. Yesterday, I mentioned, I went to Hamilton, Ohio. Then we went to Durham, New Hampshire, and Boston, Massachusetts. I was with parents and teachers who know the faces and names and needs of their own children. Local schools now have a mandate to reform, and we are giving them the freedom to reform.

It is the job of the local folks to chart the path for excellence for every single child in America, and we trust them to do so. As a result of this bill, local officials now have unprecedented flexibility to decide where to spend money and target reforms. We are increasing support and funding for research into teaching methods that work. And we will spend almost \$400 million to help States design and administer