Ohio one of 16 finalists

Washington, DC - Today, Rep. Charlie Wilson (OH-6) congratulated Ohio and offered further encouragement to the state as it competes for a Department of Education 'Race to the Top' award. The U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, announced the first round finalists in the competition. The Department received 41 applications; Ohio is one of 16 finalists. The historic program will present $4.35 billion in school reform grants. Ohio's Race to the Top team will now be expected to make a finalist presentation during the week of March 15.

"I'm very proud that Ohio's Race to the Top application has made it to the next phase. I understand the importance of improving our education system in Ohio so that all students may realize their full potential and successfully compete in our global marketplace," Rep. Charlie Wilson (OH-6) said.

The grants are designed to reward states who work to increase student achievement through the development of strong standards, the recruitment and retention of more high-quality teachers, and the transformation of low-performing schools.

"Our state has taken significant steps to advance student performance, increase graduation rates, and eliminate the achievement gap. I wish the state good luck in the next phase and am hopeful that Ohio will win a Race to the Top award which will accelerate our state's existing agenda to strategically address education gaps," Wilson said.