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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 5, 2006

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Speaker Hastert Comments on Ethics Committee Announcement

(Washington, D.C.) House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert today made the following statement regarding the announcement by the House Ethics Committee:

“The Committee should be commended for moving promptly with an investigation. I have directed my longtime counsel, Randy Evans of McKenna, Long, and Aldridge, to cooperate with the Committee in getting to the bottom of this.

“The Committee is moving forward to get control of this situation and find answers to provide all of us peace of mind.

“Any person who is found guilty of improper conduct involving sexual contact or communication with a page should immediately resign, be fired, or be subjected to a vote of expulsion.

“As I have said, anyone who had knowledge of the vile instant messages should have turned them over immediately so that our House Pages could be protected. Someone did have those messages. There are reports that a Congressional aide was a source. The Committee should help find out who had the messages and why they were not turned over sooner.

“In addition, I, along with my colleagues, have asked the Committee to consider and recommend specific rules governing communications and contacts between Members and House Pages.

“I look forward to their findings and recommendations. I'm pleased the Committee is showing the commitment to get this job done.”

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