



February 28, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Boxer, Senator Murkowski and Senator Murray:

On behalf of the millions of children and families served by afterschool programs across the country, we are writing to thank you for introducing the Afterschool for America's Children Act, S. 326. The undersigned organizations strongly support this important legislation that strengthens the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative—providing the next generation of before-school, afterschool and summer learning programs that keep young people safe, inspire them to learn and support working families. Thank you for your longstanding leadership in making quality, affordable afterschool programs available to all the children and youth that need them.

For more than ten years the 21st Century Community Learning Center initiative has helped millions of children to become engaged in their academic studies, while sparking new interests in a wide variety of topics from the sciences to theater. Building on past accomplishments, the bipartisan Afterschool for America's Children Act supports the innovative advances occurring in before-school, afterschool and summer learning programs, meeting a host of new challenges and re-engaging children in their education and future.

Authorized in Title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the 21st CCLC initiative provides students attending high-poverty schools with academic enrichment activities; a broad array of additional services designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program, such as: hands on experiments to excite children about science, technology, engineering and math, access to physical activity, drug and violence prevention programs, counseling programs, art, music, opportunities to be creative and technology education programs; as well as literacy and related educational development services to the families of children who are served in the program. In addition, afterschool programs provide an infrastructure to bring in other resources to our children including access to mentors, tutors, snacks and meals, and in some places medical, dental and mental health programs. Your legislation will enhance the quality of these programs; better emphasize science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), twenty first century skills, and physical activity and nutrition education; improve the manner in which the program is

evaluated; and strengthen the school-community partnerships that are the hallmark of quality afterschool and summer learning programs.

Quality 21st CCLC programs result from collaborations between schools and community-based organizations and provide hands-on, experiential learning opportunities that align with lessons taught during the school-day. Evaluations and teacher reports have revealed positive results in behavior and academic achievement for students who regularly attend 21st CCLCs: students who attend 21st CCLC programs more regularly are more likely to improve their grades, test scores and overall academic behavior (Learning Point Associates, 2007). There are now 4,619 grants funding afterschool programs serving 1,660,945 children and youth in 11,068 school-based and community-based centers across the country. The parents of 18 million students would place their children in an afterschool program if one were available and accessible.

Our groups are proud to endorse this legislation. Thank you again for championing our children, our youth and our families. Afterschool programs offer an effective and affordable way of helping young people realize their full potential. We look forward to working with you in the future to translate our common vision of access to high quality afterschool opportunities for all into a reality.

Signed:

National Supporters

Afterschool Alliance
After-School All-Stars
A World Fit For Kids
American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (AAHPERD)
American Association for Health Education (AAHE)
American Association of School Librarians
American Camp Association
American Clinical Board of Nutrition
American Council on Exercise
American Heart Association
American School Health Association
Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC)
Camp Fire USA
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Champions (A Division of Knowledge Universe)
Coalition for Community Schools
Coalition for Science After School
Development Without Limits
Early Care and Education Consortium
EdLab Group
First Focus Campaign for Children
Food Research and Action Center
Mental Health America (formerly National Mental Health Association)
National Afterschool Association
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE)
National Association for Bilingual Education
National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

National Association of Elementary School Principals
 National Center for Women and Information Technology
 National Collaboration for Youth
 National Crittenton Foundation
 National Farm to School Network
 National High School Equivalency Program (HEP)/College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) Association
 National Institute on Out-of-School Time
 National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association
 National Council of Youth Sport (NCYS)
 National Science Teachers Association
 National Summer Learning Association
 Net Literacy
 Obesity Action Coalition
 One To World
 Partnership for Prevention
 Prevention Institute
 Public Library Association
 Save The Children
 SEDL
 The SPARK Programs
 U.S. Soccer Foundation
 United States Tennis Association (USTA)
 Up2Us
 Varsity Brands
 YMCA of the USA
 Young Adult Library Services Association
 Youth Development Institute

State and Local Supporters

Alaska Association for Community Education
 Community After School Partnership - Fairbanks
 California School-Age Consortium (CalSAC)
 Camp Fire Inland Southern California
 Camp Fire Heart of California
 CANFIT
 LA's Best
 Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles
 Connecticut After School Network
 DC Scores
 Children's Forum
 Florida Afterschool Network
 R'Club Child Care, Inc., Tampa Bay
 Federation for Community Schools

State

AK
 AK
 CA
 CA
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 CT
 DC
 FL
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 FL
 IL

Indiana Afterschool Network	IN
Young Audiences of Louisiana	LA
Maine Afterschool Network	ME
Michigan Afterschool Partnership	MI
Youth First, Saginaw	MI
Missouri AfterSchool Network (MASN)	MO
Camp Fire Heartland	MO
New Hampshire Afterschool Network	NH
North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs	NC
Partners for a Healthy Nevada	NV
Haddonfield Child Care	NJ
New Jersey After 3	NJ
New Jersey Alliance of YMCAs	NJ
NJSACC: The Statewide Network for New Jersey's Afterschool Communities	NJ
BronxWorks	NY
Brooklyn Chinese-American Association	NY
CAMBA Inc., Brooklyn	NY
Catholic Guardian Society and Home Bureau	NY
Center for Family Life, a program of SCO Family of Services, Brooklyn	NY
Children's Home of Jefferson County	NY
Citizen's Committee for Children of New York, Inc.	NY
Family Services-NY, Poughkeepsie	NY
Good Shepherd Services, NYC	NY
Harlem RBI	NY
Healthy Kids Extended Day Program, New Windsor	NY
Hudson Bluehawk Nation Afterschool Program, Hudson	NY
I Have A Dream" Foundation – NY	NY
Long Island Science Center	NY
Love Movement Ministries, School of the heARTS, Cicero	NY
Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, Inc., Bronx	NY
Neighborhood Initiatives Development Corp., Bronx	NY
New York State Afterschool Network	NY
Northern Manhattan Improvement Corp.	NY
Partnership for After School Education	NY
Partnership for Results, Inc., Auburn	NY
Plattsburgh (NY) Public Library	NY
Riverdale Community Center, Inc., Bronx	NY
Riverdale Neighborhood House, Inc., Bronx	NY
Rockland After School Programs, Spring Valley	NY
SCAN-New York	NY
Shorefront YM-YWHA of Brighton-Manhattan Beach, Inc.	NY
South Asian Youth Action (SAYA!)	NY
South Brooklyn Youth Consortium	NY

Southeast Bronx Neighborhood Centers, Inc	NY
St Nicks Alliance, Brooklyn	NY
The Arab American Family Support Center	NY
United Community Centers	NY
United Neighborhood Houses of New York	NY
United Way of Long Island	NY
University Settlement Society of New York	NY
Washington Heights-Inwood Coalition	NY
YMCA of Greater New York	NY
YMCA-WCC of Rome, Inc	NY
Camp Fire Green Country, Tulsa	OK
Oklahoma Afterschool Network	OK
Oregon Afterschool for Kids	OR
Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool Youth Development Network	PA
Rhode Island After School Plus Alliance	RI
South Dakota Afterschool Partnership	SD
Camp Fire Lone Star	TX
Changing Expectations Corp.	TX
Dallas AfterSchool Network	TX
Fort Worth After School	TX
GENaustin	TX
Girlstart, Austin	TX
New Horizons Lacrosse	TX
Texas Partnership for Out of School Time	TX
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas	TX
Volunteer After School Sports Program (VASSP), El Paso	TX
Community Education Partnership of West Valley City, Inc.	UT
Utah Afterschool Network	UT
Schools Out Washington	WA
PATCH 21st CCLC, Spencer	WV
West Virginia Statewide Afterschool Network	WV
Wisconsin Afterschool Network	WI
Marshfield Clinic	WI
Hot Springs County Counseling Center, Thermopolis	WY
Hot Springs County School District #1, Thermopolis	WY