



February 25, 2014

The Honorable Dan Kildee
United States House of Representatives
327 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
United States House of Representatives
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Kildee and Congresswoman DeLauro:

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. The undersigned organizations 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 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 and serving as a companion bill to the bipartisan Afterschool for America's Children Act in the Senate, your legislation 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 over 4,500 grants funding afterschool programs serving over 1.5 million children and youth in over 11,000 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 Organizations

Afterschool Alliance
After-School All-Stars
American Camp Association
American Heart Association
A World Fit For Kids!
Camp Fire
Center for Assessment, Strategic Planning, Evaluation and Research
Champions (Knowledge Universe)
Coalition for Community Schools
Development Without Limits
First Focus Campaign for Children
Lakeshore Foundation
Mental Health America
National Afterschool Association
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity
National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Collaboration for Youth
National Council on Youth Sports
National Education Association
National Institute for Out of School Time
National Farm to School Network
National Science Teachers Association
National Summer Learning Association
Net Literacy
Partnership for Prevention
Save the Children
SHAPE America - Society of Health and Physical Educators (formally AAHPERD)
United States Soccer Foundation
Youth Development Institute

State and Local Organizations

| | |
|--|----|
| Alabama Afterschool Community Network | AL |
| Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence | AZ |
| Arkansas Out of School Network | AR |
| Connecticut AfterSchool Network | CT |
| Education Connection | CT |
| DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation | DC |
| Florida Afterschool Network | FL |
| Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network | GA |
| Voices for Georgia's Children | GA |
| Chicago Arts Partnerships in Education | IL |
| Federation for Community Schools | IL |
| Indiana Afterschool Network | IN |
| Arts for Learning | IN |
| Iowa Afterschool Alliance | IA |
| Iowa Child Care Resource and Referral | IA |
| Kansas PTA | KS |
| Arts Partners, Inc. | KS |
| Volpe Communications | KS |
| Kentucky Out-of-School Alliance | KY |
| Louisiana Center for Afterschool Learning | LA |
| Urban Support Agency, Inc. | LA |
| Young Audiences of Louisiana | LA |
| NZBC Urban Corporation | LA |
| Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership | MA |
| Build the Out of School Time Network | MA |
| Maryland Out of School Time | MD |
| Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families, Inc. | MD |
| Michigan After School Partnership | MI |
| Michigan AfterSchool Association | MI |
| Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals | MI |
| Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association | MI |
| Michigan PTA | MI |
| Michigan's Children | MI |
| City Year Detroit | MI |
| ELO Network | MI |
| Ferndale Public Schools | MI |
| Fremont Area Community Foundation | MI |
| Our Community's Children | MI |
| Ignite Afterschool | MN |
| Missouri AfterSchool Network (MASN) | MO |

| | |
|--|----|
| Missouri School Age Community Coalition | MO |
| Beyond School Bells | NE |
| New Hampshire Afterschool Network | NH |
| New Jersey School-Age Care Coalition | NJ |
| New Mexico Afterschool Alliance | NM |
| New York State Afterschool Network | NY |
| Arab American Family Support Center | NY |
| CAMBA | NY |
| Children's Home of Jefferson County | NY |
| Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, Inc | NY |
| Harlem RBI | NY |
| One To World | NY |
| Riverdale Community Center, Inc. | NY |
| South Asian Youth Action (SAYA!) | NY |
| United Neighborhood Houses | NY |
| Nevada Afterschool Network | NV |
| Ohio Afterschool Network | OH |
| Oregon Afterschool for Kids | OR |
| Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool Youth Development Network | PA |
| American Helicopter Museum & Education Center | PA |
| Educational Advocates Reaching Today's Hardworking Students, Inc. (EARTHS) | PA |
| Women's Christian Alliance | PA |
| Franklin Towne Charter High School | PA |
| Rhode Island Afterschool Plus Alliance | RI |
| BOOST, Building Opportunities in Out of School Time | SC |
| South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy | SC |
| South Carolina Afterschool Alliance | SC |
| South Dakota Afterschool Partnership | SD |
| Texas Partnership for Out of School Time | TX |
| Big Thought | TX |
| GENAustin | TX |
| GirlStart | TX |
| New Horizons Lacrosse | TX |
| Utah Afterschool Network | UT |
| Vermont Afterschool, Inc. | VT |
| Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time | VA |
| Child Care Aware of Virginia | VA |
| Schools Out Washington | WA |
| The Clay Center | WV |
| After School Explorers, Preston County | WV |
| Lights On in Lander | WY |