

Dear _____,

On behalf of the 8.4 million children in afterschool programs across the country and the 18 million children whose parents would like them to participate in programs if programs were available, I write to you today to ask your support of afterschool programs by joining the Senate Afterschool Caucus and committing to increased federal support for afterschool programs.

As a result of several years of funding reductions for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program (21st CCLC), states are increasingly unable to fund any new 21st CCLC afterschool programs. As an educator and parent, I know how critical this program is to children and families across the nation, and I hope you will work to increase funding for 21st CCLC. .

As you know, investing in children is investing in our future. Now is the time to invest in afterschool programs – *an investment that will save taxpayers approximately \$3 for every \$1 invested.* according to a study by the Rose Institute at Claremont McKenna College.

Right here in **[insert town]**, our afterschool program, **[insert name of program]**, is helping to keep our children safe and stimulated while giving them opportunities to learn, develop and grow. We are also helping working parents be more productive at work and at home by helping ensure that their children are safe and inspired. And the whole community benefits from reduced juvenile crime, teenage pregnancies and youth's access to drugs and alcohol. Given the wide ranging benefits of afterschool and the importance of these programs in our state, please consider becoming a member of the Senate Afterschool Caucus, chaired by Senator Barbara Boxer. Contact Patrick Scandling (202-224-3553) in Senator Boxer's office for more information about joining the Caucus.

By joining the Afterschool Caucus and increasing funding for the 21st CCLC program, you will be showing parents and families in **[insert state or town]** that afterschool programs are not just an "add-on"; they are a critical part of a child's social and academic development.

Thank you again for all you do on behalf of children.

Sincerely,

[Insert Name]
[Insert Title/Organization]
[Insert Address]