



October 19, 2016

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, and Education  
2467 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, and Education  
2413 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray; and Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

Thank you for your strong leadership on education and for your support of afterschool and summer learning. America's families work hard to provide for their children and knowing that you are dedicated to meeting the needs of children and families counts more than you know. It is on their behalf that we write today and ask that, as part of the FY2017 final spending bill, you include the House LHHS funding level of \$1.167 billion for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC). At this level, which is equal to FY2016 spending, providers of afterschool and summer learning programs will be able to sustain quality programming for 1.6 million children.

The 21st CCLC funding stream works as Congress intended: it supports enrichment and academic learning opportunities for students in grades K-12 in afterschool and summer learning programs that help young people be successful in school and life. It also engages communities: the federal dollars are supported by additional investments in afterschool programs from cities, states, businesses, museums, libraries and local private partners. Between 2006 and 2010, partner organizations contributed more than \$1 billion to support 21st CCLC programs.

There is a growing body of evidence that proves that afterschool and summer learning programs are effective. Recent evaluations have shown that students who participate in these programs are less likely to be involved in crime, use drugs or alcohol or engage in other risky behavior. They improve their grades, attend school more regularly and report higher aspirations regarding finishing school and going to college. As well, these programs expose students to opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math; provide physical activity and healthy eating; and complement and enhance the work they do in the classroom. For all these reasons, current demand far exceeds availability. In fact, according to the most recent America After 3PM report the parents of nearly 20 million children, half of whom are low-income, would like to enroll their child in an afterschool program, if one were affordable or accessible.

We understand the fiscal constraints you face when negotiating and writing the FY2017 spending bill. We also know that you don't always hear from those on the ground who are utilizing federal programs like the 21st CCLC about how your leadership is making a difference in keeping our young people safe and heading down the right path to success in their own lives, for their communities, and ultimately for the health of the nation. We invite you to visit one of the more than 11,000 21st CCLC sites so that you can see firsthand how these dollars are benefitting your constituents.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Signed:

A World Fit For Kids!  
Afterschool Alliance  
After-School All-Stars  
America SCORES  
American Heart Association  
Association of Children's Museums  
BELL (Building Educated Leaders for Life)  
Boys and Girls Clubs of America  
Bridge II Sports  
Camp Fire  
Champions  
Child Care Aware of America  
Citizen Schools  
Coalition for Community Schools  
Communities In Schools  
EDGE Consulting  
ExpandedED Schools  
Food Research & Action Center  
Forum for Youth Investment  
Foundations, Inc.  
Girl Scouts of the USA  
Girls Inc.  
Girls on the Run (GOTR)  
Global Kids  
MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership  
MomsRising  
National 4-H Council  
National AfterSchool Association  
National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth  
National Association of Elementary School Principals  
National Association of Secondary School Principals  
National Association of State Directors of Special Education  
National Council of Youth Sports (NCYS)  
National Girls Collaborative Project  
National Human Services Assembly  
National Network for Youth  
National Recreation and Park Association  
National Summer Learning Association  
National Youth Leadership Council  
Save the Children  
Sports and Arts in Schools Foundation  
The National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE)  
YMCA of the USA  
Young Adult Library Services Association  
Youth Communication