

March 21, 2016

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

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

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

Thank you for your strong leadership on education and support for afterschool and summer learning. America's families work hard to provide for their children and knowing that you have their back counts more than you know. It is on their behalf that we write today and seek your support for a \$1.3 billion funding level for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) in the fiscal year 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill -- an increase of about \$130 million over FY2016 funding. At this level we will be able to sustain quality programming for 1.6 million children and extend opportunities to an additional 140,000 children who are currently waiting for access.

The 21 CCLC works as Congress intended: it provides students in grades K-12 with enrichment and academic support through afterschool and summer learning to help them 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 other local partners. Between 2006 and 2010, partner organizations contributed more than \$1 billion to support 21<sup>st</sup> 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 2014 America After 3PM report 9.7 million low-income children have parents who would like to enroll their child in an afterschool program** if one were affordable or accessible.

We understand the fiscal constraints you face. We also know that you don't always hear from those on the ground who are utilizing federal programs like the 21<sup>st</sup> 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. But don't take our word for it;

we invite you to visit us in your home states and districts so that you can see firsthand how these dollars are benefitting your constituents.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Signed:

National Organizations

After-School All-Stars  
A World Fit For Kids!  
Afterschool Alliance  
Alliance for Strong Families and Communities  
America SCORES  
American Camp Association, Inc.  
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO  
Americans for the Arts  
American Library Association  
America's Promise Alliance  
Association of Children's Museums  
Association of Science-Technology Centers  
Boys & Girls Clubs of America  
Camp Fire National Headquarters  
Campaign for Environmental Literacy  
Champions, Inc.  
Child Care Aware of America  
Children's Leadership Council  
Citizen Schools  
Coalition for Community Schools  
Coalition for Juvenile Justice  
Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)  
Committee For Children  
Early Care and Education Consortium  
Elev8  
ExpandedED Schools (formerly TASC)  
FIRST  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Foundations, Inc  
Girl Scouts of the USA  
Girls Inc.  
Global Kids  
Kids Included Together  
Lutheran Services in America  
MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership  
National AfterSchool Association

National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE)  
 National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth  
 National Association of Elementary School Principals  
 National Association of Secondary School Principals  
 National Collaboration for Youth  
 National Council of Youth Sport (NCYS).  
 National Farm to School Network  
 National Girls Collaborative  
 National Network for Youth  
 National Recreation and Park Association  
 National Summer Learning Association  
 National Women's Law Center  
 National Writing Project  
 Rural School and Community Trust  
 Save the Children  
 United Way Worldwide  
 YMCA of the USA  
 Young Adult Library Services Association

State and Local Organizations

America SCORES Bay Area	CA
DC SCORES	DC
Family Connection	GA
River of Life Church	GA
America SCORES Chicago	IL
Engine #9-Education's First Response	MI
Missouri AfterSchool Network	MO
Springfield-Greene County Park Board	MO
KE Stanton Sr. Ministries Open Session Foundation	MS
New Mexico Out of School Time Network	NM
AfterSchool Works! NY: New York State Afterschool Network	NY
America SCORES New York	NY
Classroom, Inc.	NY
THE DREAM FACTORY	OK
Workforce Training & Employment Center, Inc	PR
Essex Junction Recreation and Parks	VT
School's Out Washington	WA
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Green Bay	WI
Wisconsin Afterschool Network	WI
America SCORES Milwaukee	WI
Green Bay YMCA	WI
First Baptist Church	WY