

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 17, 2016

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

We urge you to fund the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Program at \$1.3 billion in fiscal year 2017, \$133 million over current funding levels.

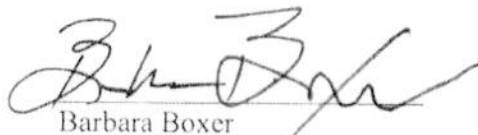
Today, families are relying more than ever on afterschool and summer learning supports as they work to keep their jobs and provide their children with basic necessities. Parents with afterschool supports are more productive at work and miss fewer days, and children who attend afterschool programs do better in class and are more likely to graduate from high school.

Unfortunately, there are not nearly enough afterschool and summer learning programs to meet the need. The demand for affordable, quality afterschool experiences far exceeds the availability. The 2014 report, *America After 3PM*, found that more than 19 million children have parents who would like to enroll them in an afterschool program, but cannot find one that is available. Increasing funding to the 21st CCLC program by \$133 million would allow over 130,000 additional students to gain access to quality afterschool and summer learning programs.

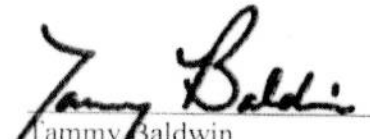
Afterschool programs help keep kids safe, improve academic performance, and help working families across America. Research shows that quality programs give students the academic, social, and professional skills they need to succeed. Students who regularly attend afterschool programs have better attendance, grades and behavior in school; better peer relations and emotional adjustment; and lower incidences of drug-use, violence and unintended pregnancy. Numerous studies have shown that these benefits make afterschool programs a positive return on investment, saving taxpayer dollars over time.

Support for afterschool is broad, deep, enduring and bipartisan. We ask that you continue to support these critical programs by providing \$1.3 billion in fiscal year 2017 for the 21st CCLC program. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

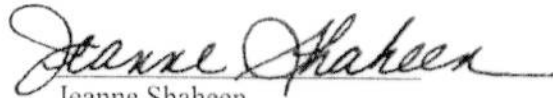
Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



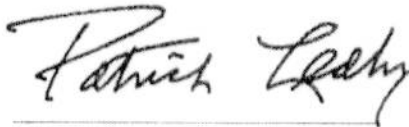
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



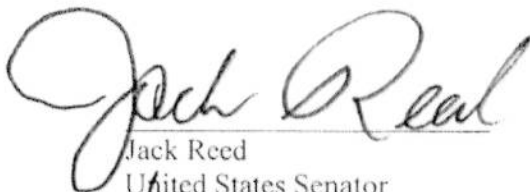
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



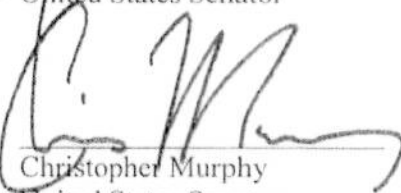
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



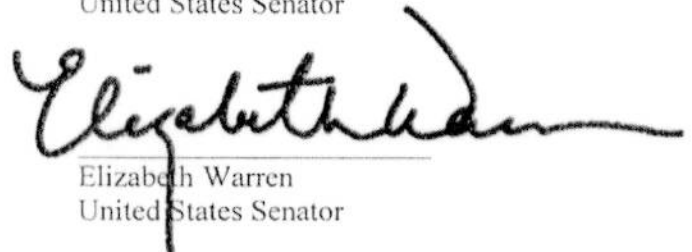
Jack Reed
United States Senator



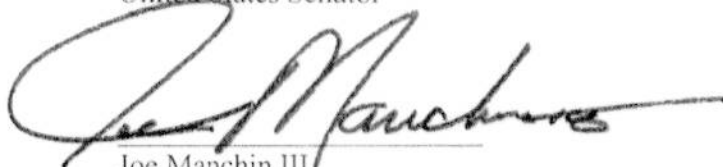
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



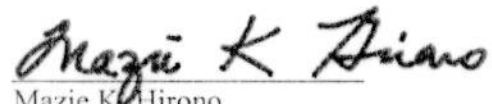
Christopher Murphy
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



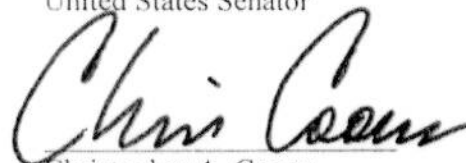
Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



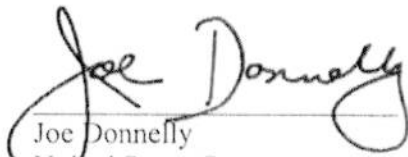
Mazie Hirono
United States Senator



Gary Peters
United States Senator



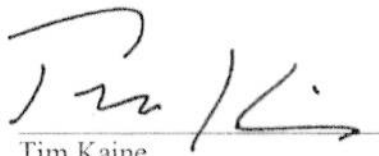
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

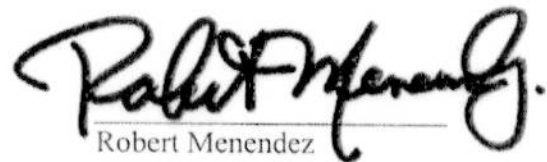

Joe Donnelly
United States Senator

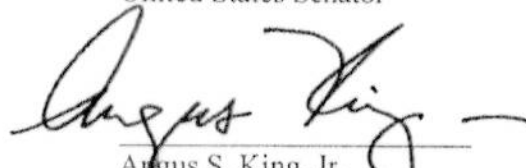

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

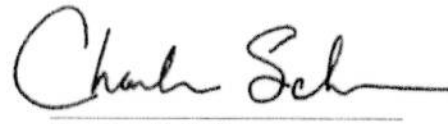

Al Franken
United States Senator


Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator


Tim Kaine
United States Senator


Robert Menendez
United States Senator


Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator


Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator


Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator