

TALKING POINTS – APRIL 2017

ELEVATOR SPEECH

Fill in the state-specific numbers with data from [this chart](#).

Nearly **XX,XXX kids in [your state]**—and 1.6 million kids nationwide—attend afterschool programs at a 21st Century Community Learning Center.

Our kids and families rely on these programs to keep young people safe, engaged, and on track for high school graduation, college, and careers.

Today, children across the states will attend programs in our public, private, and charter schools, our faith-based centers, and local youth-focused organizations. Students may build robots, develop an app, create a mural, or play basketball. They will get help with homework or extra support in subjects they are struggling with.

For parents, these programs are a lifeline. Most parents are still at work when school lets out. Community Learning Centers help them keep their jobs, and peace of mind.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative is the only federal funding stream dedicated to afterschool programs. Without it, afterschool options for parents across the state will be severely diminished. Our state would lose **[\$X million.]**

The President's proposed budget proposes to eliminate federal funding for Community Learning Centers completely. This would be devastating to kids and families across [your state] and across our country.

I want to set the record straight with the facts about afterschool. It works.

I am calling on you and Congress to fund 21st CCLC at the same level as last year and not cut the program's funding.

AFTERSCHOOL WORKS FOR KIDS AND PARENTS

- Study after study shows that afterschool programs are effective in boosting achievement. Students in afterschool programs have better grades and test scores. They attend school more often, and have better behavior and work habits in class.
- Afterschool keeps kids safe during the time of day when juvenile crime and victimization peaks.
- Kids in afterschool connect with positive role models, learn to make good decisions, and are less likely to smoke, drink, use drugs, or become teen parents.
- What's happening in these programs is not only good for our kids, but extremely important for our economic prosperity.

AFTERSCHOOL WORKS FOR OUR ECONOMY

- Afterschool helps families make ends meet. Four in five parents say their afterschool program helps them keep their jobs.
- For employers, afterschool programs help productivity. When working parents lack afterschool options, the resulting loss in productivity costs U.S. businesses up to \$300 billion per year.
- On top of that, afterschool saves up to \$9 for every \$1 invested by increasing kids' earning potential, improving academic achievement, and reducing juvenile crime and delinquency.

AFTERSCHOOL WORKS FOR BUSINESS

- Afterschool programs help students develop the skills that employers say are necessary for success in the workforce.
- Nearly 80 percent of jobs created nationwide over the next decade will require science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills.
- STEM jobs are among the fastest-growing and highest-paying jobs in America. Yet millions of STEM jobs are going unfilled because of the lack of qualified job candidates.
- A study released in March shows that afterschool STEM programs significantly improve kids' skills and confidence in math and science. It also shows that afterschool STEM inspires young people to pursue careers they never imagined before and helps them gain the skills they need to succeed.

CLOSE/ASK

Children, families and communities across our state rely on the quality afterschool and summer learning programs supported by 21st Century Community Learning Center funds.

Like [insert specific 21st CCLC program in member's district] that provides [details about # and/or demographics of kids in program] with [explain unique value of program, example of project or internship].
Speak to outcome/results or include supportive quote from parent, business or education official.

Our state's Community Learning Centers are driven by the needs of the kids, families, and communities they serve, and bring millions of federal dollars to our state each year.

Eliminating these programs will hurt our kids, our workforce, and our economy.

We should be scaling up these programs, not cutting them. This is a deeply popular issue. Across the country, the parents of 19 million kids would sign up for afterschool, if a program were available. 8 in 10 parents support public funding for afterschool.

The future of afterschool and summer programs is in your hands. We hope we can count on your help to ensure that not one child, not one mom or dad, loses the afterschool programs they rely on.