



NEWS RELEASE  
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## **Turning the Lights On for Afterschool State-By-State**

### ***Governors Across the Nation Issue Proclamations Supporting Afterschool Rally***

It doesn't matter if you're the governor of the "Small Wonder," the "Grand Canyon State" or the "Bluegrass State" – you know how much afterschool programs do to keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. That's why these governors and their colleagues in 17 other states have already issued proclamations supporting *Lights On Afterschool 2007*, the only nationwide rally for afterschool programs. Many more governors, along with mayors across the country, are expected to do so in the next few weeks.

"Afterschool programs provide enormous benefits to families, communities and to the country," Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant said. "That's why we expect a million people to join a *Lights On Afterschool* event this month, and why so many governors are helping us highlight the need for more quality afterschool programs by officially recognizing *Lights On Afterschool 2007* in their states. More governors are adding their support every day."

Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell has issued a Letter of Support that says, in part: "*A commitment to keeping the 'Lights On Afterschool' gives our next generation of business and community leaders, educators, artists, scientists, and parents the opportunity to succeed in school and life... Working together we can create and support programs that engage our children's minds and give them hope for the future.*"

Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman has issued a proclamation designating October 18 Nebraska *Lights On Afterschool Day*. It says, in part:

*"The State of Nebraska has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality after-school programs are key to helping our children become successful adults."*

The other governors who have already issued proclamations or letters of support for *Lights On Afterschool 2007* include: Alabama Governor Bob Riley; Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano; Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell; Delaware Governor Ruth Ann Minner; Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich; Iowa Governor Chet Culver; Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius; Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher; Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm; New Hampshire Governor John Lynch; New York Governor Eliot Spitzer; North Carolina Governor Mike Easley; North Dakota Governor John Hoeven; Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry; Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski; Rhode Island Governor Don Carcieri; Washington Governor Chris Gregoire; and Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle. Many more governors are expected to lend their support in coming weeks.

This year, *Lights On Afterschool* marks the kick-off for a year-long celebration of the tenth anniversary of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, the chief federal funding stream for afterschool programs.

*Lights On Afterschool* was launched in October 2000. Last year, a million people rallied at 7,500 events to show their support for afterschool programs. Organizers expect this year's event to be even larger. Actress Rhea Perlman is the spokesperson for *Lights On Afterschool* and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is National Chair, a position he has held since 2001.

*The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. More information is available at [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).*

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