Advocacy as a Bill Becomes a Law

Communication with your Members of Congress is important and effective all year round. In fact, they may be more responsive if you develop relationships with them through continuous communication. You may do this by communicating with their staff, visiting their offices and inviting them to visit your program during Congressional recesses. There are certain times during the legislative process, however, in which your voice may have more critical impact. The diagram below is designed to help you understand how certain well-timed advocacy actions can impact policy affecting afterschool.

- Bill Is Introduced in The Senate
  - Referred to Senate Committee
  - Referred to Subcommittee
  - Changes Voted on by Full Committee
  - Full Senate Debate and Vote
  - Conference Committee
  - If your Members are on the Conference Committee, be sure to let them know your opinions. If your Members are not, ask them to convey your messages to their colleagues who are on the Conference Committee.
  - Senate Approves
  - If the President signs the bill, it becomes public law

- Bill Is Introduced in The House
  - Referred to House Committee
  - Referred to Subcommittee
  - Changes Voted on by Full Committee
  - Full House Debate and Vote
    - Full Senate
    - Referred to House Committee
    - Referred to Subcommittee
    - Changes Voted on by Full Committee
    - Full House Debate and Vote

Write or call the President to let him know what you think of the bill. Go to www.whitehouse.gov for contact information.