



STATEMENT OF
Jodi Grant, Executive Director
Afterschool Alliance on
Senate Passage of Child Care Development Block Grant

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**Afterschool Leader Lauds Senate Passage of the Child Care Development Block Grant,
But Says Implementation Funding Will Be Essential**

Statement of Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance

“Today’s action by the Senate to pass the House-approved version of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is a major step forward that will improve the health, safety and prospects of millions of children. This is the first time in 18 years that both houses of Congress have passed this legislation, which will enhance transparency and improve the quality of care for children up to age 13 in low-income families. The funding increase of some \$400 million over the next six years is badly needed and long overdue.

This bill supports working parents by helping child care and afterschool providers offer quality care. One-third of children served by CCDBG are school-age and this funding will provide enrichment and learning opportunities to these children after school, before school, and during the summer. It offers tremendous potential to better blend and leverage CCDBG with other federal, state and local afterschool program funds in order to provide quality programing to more of the 19 million young people whose parents would put them in afterschool programs, if programs were available.

This legislation contains a number of important provisions, including promoting stability by allowing children to be enrolled for 12 months after the family is found eligible for child care assistance. While the CCDBG Act of 2014 represents great progress, it will be essential that Congress and the states provide adequate funding so providers can implement the improvements the law contains. We look forward to working with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and state agencies on implementation to ensure that all new policies and provisions take into account the needs and circumstances of school-age children served by afterschool providers.

We urge President Obama to waste no time in signing this bill into law.”

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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.