



MEDIA ALERT  
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## **Afterschool Leaders from Nearly 40 States to Gather in D.C. to Tell Congress: 'Afterschool Works!'**

Washington, D.C. – Afterschool providers, educators, advocates, parents and youth from across the country will be in Washington D.C. next week to urge Members of Congress to increase funding for the quality afterschool and summer learning programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working parents. The 15<sup>th</sup> annual *Afterschool for All Challenge*, a two-day event, will include workshops on key education issues, congressional meetings and an Afterschool Showcase highlighting the breadth of innovative programming offered across the country from performing arts, literacy and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) to civic engagement and youth leadership.

Workshops on Monday, May 23 at the Renaissance Dupont Circle Hotel at 1143 New Hampshire Ave. NW in Washington D.C. will address:

- **Afterschool in Rural America**, led by experts from Save the Children and afterschool leaders from Maryland and Kansas (11 am – 12:30 pm);
- **Advancing State and Local Healthy Eating and Physical Activity (HEPA) Policy**, led by experts from Voices for Healthy Kids/American Heart Association, Save the Children, the California Afterschool Network and RTI International (1 – 2:30 pm); and
- **Social and Emotional Skills**, led by New Hampshire State Senator Molly Kelly and experts from After-School All-Stars, the American Institutes for Research and Ardmore, Okla., Chamber of Commerce (1 – 2:30 pm).

On Tuesday on Capitol Hill, the Afterschool Alliance has organized an Afterschool Showcase that will feature poetry reading, dance performances, and STEM demonstrations by youth from Pennsylvania, Virginia and Washington, D.C. It will take place at:

**12:15 pm on Tuesday, May 24**  
**Russell Senate Office Building, Kennedy Caucus Room (Room 325)**  
**With**  
*Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant*  
*Senators Susan Collins (R-ME)\* and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)\**  
*Representatives Lou Barletta (R-PA)\*, David Cicilline (D-RI)\*,*  
*Marcia Fudge (D-OH)\* and Bobby Scott (D-VA)\**

Also on Tuesday, afterschool providers from nearly 40 states will meet with their senators and representatives to talk about the many ways afterschool programs support children, families, schools and communities. They will urge elected officials to increase funding for [21st Century Community Learning Centers \(21<sup>st</sup> CCLC\)](#), the primary federal funding stream for afterschool and summer learning programs.

Hundreds of advocates are also [participating in a virtual Challenge from their homes](#), calling on Congress to increase 21st CCLC funding in the Fiscal Year 2017 budget by \$133 million, which would give 140,000 additional children access to afterschool programs.

According to the [America After 3PM household survey](#) of 30,000 U.S. families, participation in afterschool programs has increased to 10.2 million students nationwide, up from 6.5 million in 2004. But the unmet demand for afterschool programs has increased as well. For every child in an afterschool program, there are two more whose parents say they would participate, if a program were available.

The Afterschool Alliance is grateful to the NAMM Foundation for its sponsorship of the 2016 *Afterschool for All Challenge*.

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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](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).*

*\*The Members of Congress listed are scheduled to attend.*