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**‘All Children and Youth Have the Right to Feel Safe,’ Afterschool Leader Says in Response to Reports the Trump Administration Plans to Redefine Gender in Federal Law**

*Statement of Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance*

“Afterschool and summer learning programs provide children and youth the space to feel safe and protected, enabling them to take full advantage of opportunities to learn, explore and grow. At the Afterschool Alliance, our mission includes ensuring young people have a place where they are secure and supported in the hours outside the school day.

We are concerned by recent reports that the Trump Administration may establish a legal definition that classifies sex as either male or female, immutable and determined at birth. Such a change would directly harm the two million individuals who identify as transgender or gender nonconforming in our nation, including thousands of young people. It would jeopardize the rights of countless students, invite discrimination and make it easier to harass people who are not perceived as conforming to rigid stereotypes.

All students benefit from strong, comprehensive civil rights protections in their schools. At the Afterschool Alliance, we firmly believe that all children and youth have the right to feel safe in schools, in their afterschool programs and their communities. We support local, state and federal policies and practices that protect all children, including those who are transgender, gender nonconforming and/or intersex. We call on the Trump administration to protect the civil rights of all students as part of U.S. public schools’ obligations under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.”

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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).*