



NEWS RELEASE  
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***Alliance Releases Data Showing that Nearly One-Third of  
Children in Working Families are Unsupervised in the Afternoons  
As Lawmakers Form Bipartisan Afterschool Caucuses in House & Senate***

**Lawmakers Recognize Students from CA, NH, PA & RI for PSAs Promoting Afterschool**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – To build support for afterschool programs and increase resources for quality afterschool care, Members of Congress announced today that they have established the first-ever Afterschool Caucuses in the Senate and the House of Representatives. Senators Christopher J. Dodd (D-CT) and John Ensign (R-NV) and Representatives Nita M. Lowey (D-NY) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) will serve as co-chairs of the bipartisan Caucuses. The founding members of the Senate Afterschool Caucus are Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Susan Collins (R-ME); the founding members of the House Afterschool Caucus are Representatives Randy Cunningham (R-CA) and Dale Kildee (D-MI).

At a Capitol Hill event announcing the Caucuses, the Alliance released new data from its groundbreaking household survey, *America After 3 PM*, which was funded by J.C. Penney Co., Inc. The data focus on working families – those in which both parents or the single parent holds a job. It finds that:

- Nearly one in three children in working families (31 percent) are unsupervised in the afternoons, compared to one in four of all K–12 children (25 percent).
- Two in five middle school children in working families (40 percent) are unsupervised in the afternoons. The study defines middle school as grades six to eight.
- Fully 9.7 million children in working families who do not participate in afterschool programs would be likely to participate if a program were available, their parents say.
- Fourteen percent of K-12 children in working families attend afterschool programs, compared to eleven percent of all K-12 children. Nineteen percent of the children of single working mothers participate in afterschool programs.
- Just seven percent of children in rural working families attend afterschool programs. Parents of these children are more likely than parents of urban or suburban families to say the program their child attends is the only one available.

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## Add One

- Thirty-one percent of Caucasian, 25 percent of African American and Hispanic, and 21 percent of Asian Pacific Islander children in working families are in self-care in the afternoons.
- More than 90 percent of working parents say they are satisfied with the afterschool program their child attends.
- Children in single-parent households who do not participate in afterschool programs are more likely than other children to be without supervision or in the care of a sibling under age 13 in the afternoons.

"Millions of children in the U.S. are as yet unable to reap the profound, life-changing benefits of quality afterschool programming because of limited access and awareness," said JCPenney Afterschool Fund Executive Vice President Ed Solczak. "We must continue working together to ensure that all our children are safe and supervised after the school day ends."

"This data provides further evidence that millions of children are without the afterschool care they need, and children in working families are especially vulnerable to being in self-care or the care of a young sibling in the afternoons," said Afterschool Alliance Interim Executive Director Jen Rinehart. "We welcome the new Afterschool Caucuses, which will be a tremendous asset as we work to make afterschool available to all families. The formation of the Caucuses provides further evidence that the vision of afterschool for all is taking root." Nationwide, nearly 1,000 mayors, police chiefs, corporate leaders and national organizations have signed on to Afterschool for All: Project 2010, an effort to collect afterschool supporters in one unified voice.

At the event to launch the Afterschool Caucuses, Members of Congress honored the winners of the Alliance's *Don't Be An American Idle* contest, which recognizes student-created public service announcements (PSAs) promoting the benefits of afterschool. Students from across the nation submitted entries in six categories, covering three media types and two age groups. Judges included actors Danny DeVito and Rhea Perlman; television's Judge Glenda Hatchett; Youth Speaks Executive Director James Kass; Fox's American Idol Musical Director Michael Orland; H2Ed Vice President Patricia Wang; themusicedge.com's Laura Johnson; and others.

The winners in the television category for nine to 12-year-olds, from the YMCA of Greater Erie in **Erie, Pennsylvania**, came to Washington, D.C. to be honored, and their spot was played at the event. Other winners are from the Bruce Royer Teen Advocates Animation Program in **Fresno, California**; the Alvord Unified Half-Time Program in **Riverside, California**; the "Girls Taking Control" afterschool program at the **YWCA of Manchester, New Hampshire**; the LIFE After School program at John W. Price Elementary School in **Lancaster, Pennsylvania**; and the Goff Community School in **Pawtucket, Rhode Island**. All winning programs received digital video cameras.

## Add Two

*The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization supported by a group of public, private, and nonprofit entities working to ensure that all children and youth have access to afterschool programs by the year 2010. More information is available at [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).*

*JCPenney Afterschool is committed to helping provide children with high quality, affordable afterschool programs to help them reach the "power of their potential." The JCPenney Afterschool Fund is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. JCPenney Afterschool is a national leader in afterschool efforts. JCPenney Afterschool's support helps provide safe, fun and educational afterschool programs and raises awareness of the need for more programs that introduce a new world of opportunity for every child.*