



For Immediate Release  
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## **Grant Commends Senate for Preserving Dedicated Afterschool Funding in Education Reauthorization Bill**

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

“The Senate today took a huge step to strengthen our children’s future by preserving dedicated funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) in its Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization, the Every Child Achieves Act. Strong, bipartisan support for the afterschool, before-school and summer learning programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and help working families made this outcome possible.

The nation owes a huge debt of gratitude to Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Al Franken (D-Minn.), Bill Cassidy (R-La.), Susan Collins (R-Maine), Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) for championing language that strengthens and reauthorizes 21st CCLC, which was added unanimously during mark-up. We also applaud Sen. Jeanne Shaheen’s (D-N.H.) successful work to add new language providing essential support for afterschool STEM (science, math, engineering and technology) programming. And we are delighted that the Senate voted to approve the amendment championed by Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) and Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.), which authorizes a Full Service Community Schools grant program, ensuring support for this proven strategy that often builds on afterschool and summer learning programs.

Some 1.6 million children and youth rely on afterschool and summer learning programs supported by the federal 21st CCLC initiative. They and their families have a tremendous amount at stake in this reauthorization. Children, families, communities and our nation will be better off if the conference committee adopts the Senate language on afterschool programs, and if Congress increases – or at least level funds – 21st CCLC in fiscal year 2016.”

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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).*