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## **House Appropriations Committee Vote a ‘High-Water Mark to Date for Federal Support for Afterschool and Summer Learning’**

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

“Today’s vote by the House Appropriation Committee to increase funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) initiative by \$100 million is at once a victory for families and communities across the nation that rely on afterschool and summer learning programs, and a rejection of the White House’s three-year push to deny more than 1.7 million children the out-of-school-time programs they need and deserve. The \$1.322 billion approved by the committee would be the high-water mark to date for federal support for afterschool and summer learning.

This would not have been possible without the commitment and determination of Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-NY), and Subcommittee Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT). America’s children and families are much better off because of their unstinting support for afterschool and summer learning. We also applaud the unprecedented federal investment in social-emotional learning, which can help support the essential work that afterschool and summer programs do, which have lasting positive effects on students.

Since the President began his wrong-headed push to zero out federal support for afterschool programs, tens of thousands of Americans have contacted their Members of Congress to urge support for 21st CCLC. They’ve made their voices heard loud and clear.

As the appropriations process goes forward, the Afterschool Alliance will continue to work with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to protect afterschool from the Administration’s effort to defund it. The current federal investment in afterschool is modest, but vital. The House Appropriations vote today is an important step toward renewing and growing our shared commitment to this critical program, as we work toward the day when every child who needs an afterschool program has one.

We will continue to mobilize the millions of Americans who support and rely on afterschool, mindful that children and families in communities large and small depend on 21st CCLC.”

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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).*