



NEWS RELEASE  
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## **Green Bay 12th Grader Kaleb Robertson Shared Views on Afterschool Programs with Officials in Washington, D.C.**

Washington, D.C. – Green Bay West High School 12th grader Kaleb Robertson, who attends the [Boys & Girls Club of Greater Green Bay](#), spent part of last week meeting with U.S. Senators and Representatives and their aides to discuss the importance of investing in afterschool and summer learning programs for youth. Kaleb came to Washington, D.C. for the annual Afterschool for All Challenge, organized by the [Afterschool Alliance](#).

On Thursday, Kaleb shared his experiences and perspectives on afterschool programs with U.S. Sens. Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson and U.S. Reps Paul Ryan and Mike Gallagher, emphasizing the ways afterschool programs, specifically the Boys & Girls Club, has broadened his horizons in the six years he has attended programming.

Kaleb is one of five Youth Afterschool Ambassadors from four states: Missouri, Oklahoma, Washington, Wisconsin. He designed a photobook which showcased the value of afterschool programs. Kaleb shared it with Members of Congress and their staff at an Afterschool Expo on Capitol Hill last Wednesday. Kaleb was accompanied to D.C. and mentored during this school year by Eric Vanden Heuvel, the Chief Academic Officer of the Boys & Girls Club and an alumnus of the Afterschool Alliance's long-running Afterschool Ambassador program, geared toward afterschool providers.

“It was so exciting to visit the offices of Senators Baldwin and Johnson and Representatives Ryan and Gallagher and talk to them about how my afterschool program has prepared me to succeed in school and in life,” Robertson said.

The Afterschool for All Challenge is an annual event that brings together afterschool program providers and experts, along with students, like Kaleb, to showcase some of the innovative and hands-on learning activities afterschool programs provide.

This year afterschool providers and educators from all 50 states visited Washington, D.C. to meet with their elected officials. President Trump is proposing to eliminate federal funding for afterschool programs in 2019, a decision that would eliminate afterschool programs for 1.7 million youth, including the 21st Century Community Learning Center funded program that Kaleb attends.

The [America After 3PM](#) household survey of more than 30,000 families, commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance, found that 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. Today, for every child in an afterschool program, there are two more whose parents say they would participate if a program were available. Unmet demand is especially high in rural communities and communities of concentrated poverty. One in five students in the United States today is unsupervised after the school day ends.

A large and growing body of evidence demonstrates improvements in attendance, behavior, academic achievement and more among children in afterschool programs. Researchers have also found that afterschool programs encourage increased parental involvement – an important building block for student success.

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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).*