



NEWS RELEASE
February 14, 2011

CONTACT: Gretchen Wright
202/371-1999

**House Appropriations Committee Proposal
Would Leave A Hundred Thousand Children & Families
Without the Afterschool Programs They Need**

Statement of Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance

“The proposal the House Appropriations Committee released Friday night includes a \$100 million cut to 21st Century Community Learning Centers – the chief federal funding stream for afterschool programs. If Congress were to adopt that proposal, over the course of a year, 100,000 students across the country would lose their afterschool programs.

While we recognize the imperative to cut spending, this proposal is short-sighted and harmful. At a time when more than 15 million children in the United States have no safe, supervised activities after the school day ends, and parents are struggling to hold onto their jobs and care for their children, we need to fund more afterschool programs, not close the ones we have.

We will vigorously fight this proposed cut, with support from the strong majority of Americans who support afterschool programs. We intend to remind lawmakers that every afterschool program that closes means lost opportunities for students to learn, stress and hardship for working families, and jobs lost.

We call on allies in the House, Senate and the Obama Administration to reject this proposal, which would undermine our fragile economic recovery. Instead, we urge the President to increase federal funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers, and ensure that money is directed toward afterschool programs. Quality programs keep children safe, inspire them to learn, and help working families.”

####

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.