



For Immediate Release
September 14, 2017

CONTACT: [Lisa Lederer](mailto:Lisa.Lederer@afterschoolalliance.org)
202/371-1999

House of Representatives Vote to Increase Afterschool Funding Next Year Is a ‘Resounding, Meaningful Victory for America’s Children and Families’

Statement of Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance

“The House of Representatives voted yesterday evening to increase funding for afterschool programs by \$100 million next year. In passing the Lowey/DeLauro Amendment #161 by a vote of 228 - 188, Democrats and Republicans put children first, helping to ensure that afterschool programs serving 100,000 students will not be forced to close their doors because of a cut in federal funding. This vote is a resounding, meaningful victory for America’s children and families, and a clear repudiation by Congress of President Trump’s unwise and short-sighted budget proposal, which would have zeroed out federal funding for afterschool and summer learning programs.

Last night’s vote brings the House appropriation for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) to \$1.1 billion, the level authorized in the Every Student Succeeds Act for Fiscal Year 2018. It is an increase over what the House Appropriations Committee included in its Labor, Health and Human Services appropriation and further proof of the strong congressional support for afterschool and summer learning programs, which keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families.

We commend Reps. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Nita Lowey (D-NY), Andre Carson (D-IN), David Cicilline (D-RI), Dan Kildee (D-MI) and Peter Welch (D-VT) for their powerful and extraordinary work in championing afterschool funding.

Even with this increase, the House appropriation is less than the \$1.192 billion the Senate Appropriations Committee passed for 21st CCLC next year, which is equal to Fiscal Year 2017 funding for 21st CCLC. The afterschool community will work with budget negotiators on both sides of the aisle to convince them to adopt the Senate Appropriations Committee’s funding for 21st CCLC in Fiscal Year 2018.

And even with this appropriation, the unmet need for afterschool is great. The [America After 3PM household survey](#) of more than 30,000 families, commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance, found that for every child in an afterschool program, two more are waiting to get in. One in five students in the United States is unsupervised after the school day ends. Like Congress, the public does not want afterschool funding to be cut. Last month’s [2017 PDK Poll](#) found that 92 percent of respondents back the provision of afterschool programs; it is the latest in a long line of surveys that have found overwhelming public support for these programs.

We will continue to advocate until all students in this country have the afterschool and summer learning programs they need.”

#

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.