



For Immediate Release
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Nearly 200,000 Students Could Lose Their Afterschool Programs If House Subcommittee Funding Level Prevails

Statement of Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance

“For the children, families and communities that depend on afterschool programs, the bill approved today by the House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee is cause for deep concern. While we commend the subcommittee for rejecting the Trump Administration’s unwise call to eliminate funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC), the funding level approved today would deny afterschool programs to some 191,000 students.

The 21st CCLC initiative is the chief federal funding stream for afterschool programs. It supports programs for more than 1.6 million children across the United States today. If approved, the President’s call to eliminate the initiative would have been catastrophic. That’s why Congress has been [deluged with messages of support](#) for afterschool from families, educators, businesses, community and faith-based organizations and others. Congress’ rejection of the President’s proposal demonstrates a bipartisan conviction that afterschool programs play a vital role in the lives of children, families and communities.

Unfortunately, House appropriators are slicing \$191 million from the initiative, compared to FY2017 funding. That cut would inevitably result in programs closing their doors, causing nearly 200,000 students to lose tutoring, mentoring, STEM education, skills that ensure they are ready for the jobs of today and tomorrow, healthy snacks and meals, and other supports, and forcing hundreds of thousands of parents to give up their jobs so they can look after their children in the afternoons.

Years of research demonstrate that quality afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. In 2015, Congress recognized the important work done in afterschool programs when it reauthorized 21st CCLC as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act, and when it increased funding for afterschool in FY2017. Today’s vote preserves the program, but denies it crucial funding. For the sake of our children, our families, our communities, our future workforce and our economy, we call on Congress to work together to strike a new budget deal that raises non-defense spending caps and allows key priorities like 21st CCLC to be funded at the level needed to support children, families and communities.”

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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.