



For Immediate Release  
July 12, 2016

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## **Afterschool Leader Lauds House Appropriations Committee for Rejecting Cuts to Afterschool, Summer Learning Programs**

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

“At a time when the unmet demand for afterschool and summer learning programs is vast and terribly harmful to our country’s youth, families and communities, we applaud the House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Committee for maintaining \$1.16 billion for [21st Century Community Learning Centers](#) (21st CCLC) in its FY2017 funding bill. By contrast, the Senate Appropriations Committee funded 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC – the chief federal funding stream for afterschool and summer learning programs – at just \$1.05 billion for FY2017. If Congress were to adopt the Senate’s proposed cut, 117,000 schoolchildren would lose their afterschool programs. That must not happen.

In addition, the House bill funds the new Student Support and Academic Achievement State Grant program at \$1 billion – above both the Senate appropriation and President Obama’s budget request. These grants support badly needed afterschool STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) initiatives, among other things. The House appropriation also increases the Child Care Development Block Grant, a significant funding stream for school-age child care, to \$2.8 billion.

According to the [America After 3PM](#) household survey of 30,000 U.S. families, commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance, the unmet demand for afterschool programs has increased in recent years. Today, for every child in an afterschool program, there are two more whose parents say they would participate, if a program were available. One in five students in the country today is unsupervised after the school day ends. We must do better.

We thank every lawmaker who rejected cuts to 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC, and in particular Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK) and Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) for their commitment to the next generation. We intend to mobilize afterschool supporters across the nation to urge Congress to adopt the House afterschool budget, and to encourage lawmakers at all levels to increase support so millions more students can benefit from high quality afterschool and summer learning programs. We will urge Congress, as well, to restore the \$1.3 billion that was cut from the overall U.S. Department of Education budget, including funding for Full-Service Community Schools.”

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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).*