



STATEMENT OF
Jodi Grant, Executive Director
Afterschool Alliance on
The Introduction of the Afterschool for America's Children Act

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Afterschool Leader Lauds Bipartisan Legislation Supporting Afterschool and Summer Learning Programs for America's Children

Statement of Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance

"I commend Senators Boxer, Murkowski, Moore-Capito and Manchin for introducing the bipartisan Afterschool for America's Children Act in the Senate today. The bill reauthorizes and improves the enormously successful 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative, allowing it to continue to support afterschool and summer learning programs for 1.6 million children across the nation.

Last week, Senator Alexander released a discussion draft of an Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization bill that would have eliminated the 21st CCLC initiative. The Afterschool for America's Children Act is the better way, and we look forward to working with majority and minority members of the committee to help ensure adequate funding for afterschool and summer learning programs.

Reams of research demonstrate the value of afterschool programs to our children, families and communities. Our recent [nationwide survey](#) of 30,000 households found that the majority of parents support public funding for afterschool programs, and that support crosses party lines. Ninety-one percent of parents who identify as Democrats, 86 percent who identify as Independents and 80 percent who identify as Republicans favor public funding for afterschool programs in communities with few opportunities for children and youth.

In the coming days, we will release a letter to the committee signed by more than 250 organizations urging it to reauthorize funding for the 21st CCLC initiative, so that children, families and communities across the nation can continue to have access to the afterschool programs they need.

We intend to work with members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to ensure that the afterschool programs that students, working families, communities and the country need are protected and expanded."

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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.