



Statement of Jodi Grant  
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## **Afterschool Leader Calls House Subcommittee Vote To Increase Afterschool Funding a “Hopeful Sign”**

“It is a welcome and hopeful sign that the House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee today voted to increase the budget for the federal 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) afterschool initiative by \$50 million. This is good news for America’s children and families.

The Subcommittee’s action is particularly gratifying given the economic struggles facing the nation, and the fact that although he campaigned in support of increased afterschool funding, President Obama did not recommend any increase for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC in his FY 2010 budget.

This spring, the Afterschool Alliance conducted a survey of afterschool program leaders. The results paint a bleak picture. Some programs that were struggling before the recession are closing their doors, and many others are being forced to reduce the number of children they serve, cut hours and staff, and provide many fewer activities and supports for students who are in greater need than ever.

We fully recognize that these are difficult budget times, and congratulate Subcommittee members for recognizing the wisdom and value of investing in afterschool. We urge the full Committee, the House and the Senate to follow suit by passing a budget that includes at least this \$50 million increase. This modest increase would still put us at less than half the *No Child Left Behind* authorization for FY 2007 of \$2.5 billion. .

Quality afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and help families. By supporting afterschool, and we hope by increasing 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funding, legislators are making a sound investment in children, families and communities across the nation.”

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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).*