



Statement of Jodi Grant
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Afterschool Leader Praises House Subcommittee For Increasing Afterschool Funding

“The Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee’s vote to increase the budget for the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) afterschool initiative by \$35 million is good news for America’s children and families. We strongly urge the full Committee, the House and the Senate to pass a budget that includes at least this increase.

Across the country, families are struggling to make ends meet. Now more than ever, they need the afterschool programs that keep their children safe and inspire them to learn. Last fall, the Afterschool Alliance released a national survey which found that more than a quarter of children are alone after school and that the parents of 18 million children would enroll them in afterschool programs, if those programs were available.

We thank Chairman Obey for championing afterschool and including this increase in the appropriation. We also want to thank Representatives Nita Lowey and Rosa DeLauro for their continuing leadership in pressing to increase afterschool funding.

We fully recognize that these are difficult budget times, and congratulate Subcommittee members for recognizing the wisdom and value of investing in afterschool.

Quality afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and help families. By supporting afterschool, and we hope by increasing 21st 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.