



For Immediate Release
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Nita Lowey Was a Powerful Champion for America's Children and for the Afterschool Programs that Help Them Succeed

Statement of Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance

"The afterschool community mourns the [passing of Nita Lowey](#), one of the most powerful, dedicated, and effective champions this country's children and families have ever had. Former chair of the House Appropriations Committee and longtime co-chair of the House Afterschool Caucus, Lowey served in Congress for 32 years, providing rock-solid support not just to children and families in her congressional district but also to educators and the afterschool community nationwide. Lowey passed away on March 15.

A trailblazer who worked tirelessly to improve children's education and health, Lowey spent decades helping to protect and increase funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) – the chief federal funding stream for afterschool and summer learning programs – because she understood that these programs keep our kids safe, inspire them to learn, and give working families peace of mind that their children are safe and supervised after the school day ends. In 2020, when she retired from Congress, 21st CCLC was renamed [Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers](#) in her honor.

Lowey leaves a remarkable legacy: Millions of children and families are better off because she prioritized their education and welfare. She will be long remembered and deeply missed."

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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.