



STATEMENT OF  
Jodi Grant, Executive Director  
Afterschool Alliance on  
The President's FY 2017 Budget Proposal

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**'A Real Disappointment:' President's FY 2017 Budget Proposal Would Leave  
Thousands of Children Alone and Unsupervised After the School Day Ends**

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

“President Obama’s FY2017 budget proposal would shortchange tens of thousands of children and parents who need and rely on quality afterschool programs. His proposal would fund the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) afterschool initiative at \$1 billion – a \$167 million cut from the current appropriation, which itself is not nearly adequate to meet the need. At this time when one in five students is unsupervised after the school day ends, it is a real disappointment that the administration is not proposing to at least continue the slow, steady progress toward making afterschool programs – and the safe, supervised, hands-on learning opportunities they offer – available to all students.

Furthermore, the President’s proposal would eliminate language that ensures that 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funds are used only for activities that ‘provide enrichment and engaging academic activities for students at least 300 additional program hours’ outside of the traditional school day. While eliminating that language may be appropriate with the Every Student Succeeds Act taking effect, the administration and policymakers at all levels should remember that there is strong, bipartisan support in Congress – and strong public support – for using 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funds to keep students engaged and active during the hours after the school day ends and when their parents are still at work. Working families need and deserve that support.

Across party lines, members of Congress demonstrated once again last fall that they understand that afterschool funding makes an enormous difference to the nation’s families today, and that it is essential to building the nation’s workforce tomorrow.

Lawmakers recognize what parents across the nation know so well: Afterschool programs keep children safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. We will work with members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to ensure that afterschool programs are more adequately supported in Fiscal year 2017.

According to [the America After 3PM household survey](#) of 30,000 U.S. families, participation in afterschool programs has increased to 10.2 million students nationwide, up from 6.5 million in 2004. But the unmet demand for afterschool programs has increased as well. For every child in an afterschool program, there are two more whose parents say they would participate, if a program were available.”

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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).*