



For Immediate Release  
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## **Senate Appropriations Committee Rejects Catastrophic Proposal to End Afterschool Funding**

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

“For the children, families and communities that depend on afterschool programs, the funding the Senate Appropriations Committee approved today for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) is a huge relief. We commend the bipartisan majority of Committee members who put the interests of their constituents and the country first by rejecting President Trump’s proposal to eliminate 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC. If it holds, this funding will mean afterschool programs serving millions of children will be able to keep their doors open – but this \$1.192 billion appropriation will not come close to meeting the vast unmet demand for afterschool programs in our country today.

The 21st CCLC initiative is the chief federal funding stream for afterschool, supporting programs for more than 1.6 million students across the United States. The President’s proposal to eliminate it would have been catastrophic for families, schools and communities. The House Appropriations Committee also rejected the President’s proposal to eliminate 21st CCLC, but approved a cut of \$192 million. If adopted, the House measure would mean that approximately 192,000 students would lose access to afterschool programs. It is troubling that the House seems to be on a path to cut the quality afterschool and summer learning programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. We will urge Congress to use the Senate – not the House – appropriation as its starting point for negotiations, and add additional funds for these vitally important programs.

The public does not want afterschool funding to be cut. Released just last month, the [2017 PDK Poll](#) found that 92 percent of respondents back the provision of afterschool programs; it is just the latest in a long line of surveys that have found overwhelming public support for these programs. And the unmet need for afterschool is great. The [America After 3PM household survey](#) of more than 30,000 families, commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance, found that for every child in an afterschool program, two more are waiting to get in. One in five students in the United States is unsupervised after the school day ends.

Reams of research tell us that afterschool works – for children, parents, schools and communities. In 2015, Congress recognized the important work done in afterschool programs when it reauthorized 21st CCLC as part of the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act, and then again earlier this year when it adopted a modest increase for 21st CCLC for the current fiscal year. In the days ahead, we will work with budget negotiators on both sides of the aisle to urge full funding for afterschool and summer learning programs.”

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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).*