

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 25, 2017

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

As you begin work on the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2018, we ask that you continue to support funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Program. Specifically, we ask that you provide funding of no less than \$1.191 billion, which is equivalent to the current funding level. The Subcommittee's support for 21st CCLC's is especially crucial this year, given the Administration's proposal to eliminate funding for the program. This would be devastating to families across the country who rely on afterschool and summer learning programs.

Afterschool programs help keep kids safe, improve academic performance, and help working families across America. Today, families are relying more than ever on afterschool and summer learning supports as they work to keep their jobs and provide their children with basic necessities. Parents with afterschool supports are more productive at work and miss fewer days, and children who attend afterschool programs do better in class and are more likely to graduate from high school.

Unfortunately, there are not nearly enough afterschool and summer learning programs to meet the need, and the 21st CCLC Program is the only dedicated funding stream for these kinds of programs. The demand for affordable, quality afterschool experiences far exceeds the availability. The 2014 report, *America After 3PM*, found that more than 19 million children have parents who would like to enroll them in an afterschool program, but cannot find one that is available. Eliminating funding for 21st CCLC's would deny access to afterschool programming to 1.6 million children throughout the nation that participate in this program.

Research shows that quality programs give students the academic, social, and professional skills they need to succeed. Students who regularly attend afterschool programs have better attendance, grades and behavior in school; better peer relations and emotional adjustment; and lower incidences of drug-use, violence and unintended pregnancy. Numerous studies have shown that these benefits make afterschool programs a positive return on investment, saving taxpayer dollars over time.

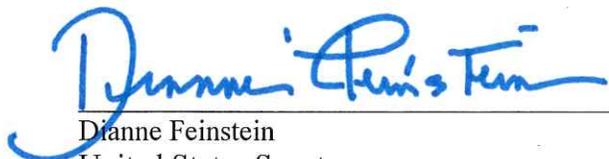
Support for afterschool is broad, deep, enduring and bipartisan. We ask that the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee ensure that the 21st CCLC Program remains a vital resource to communities with a funding level of at least \$1.191 billion in FY 2018.

Preserving this program helps ensure a healthy economy, stronger communities, and improved educational outcomes.

Sincerely,



Al Franken
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



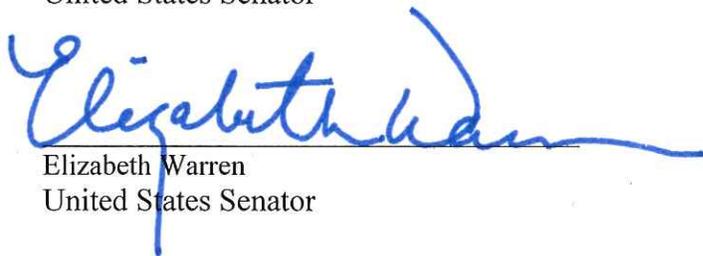
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



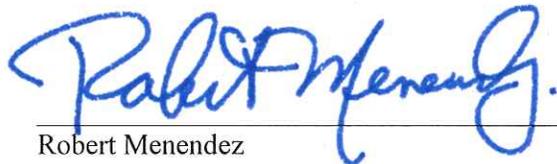
Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



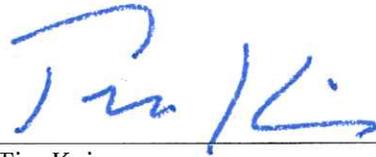
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



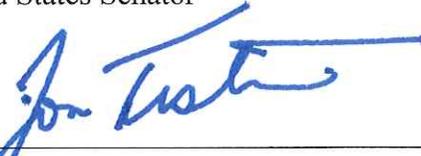
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



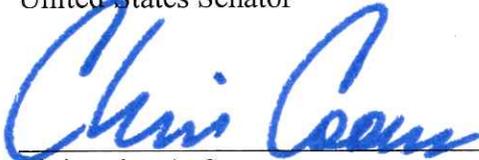
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



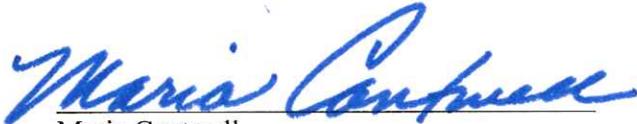
Jon Tester
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



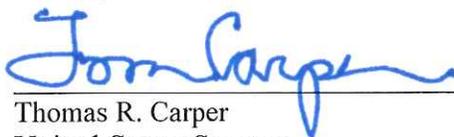
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



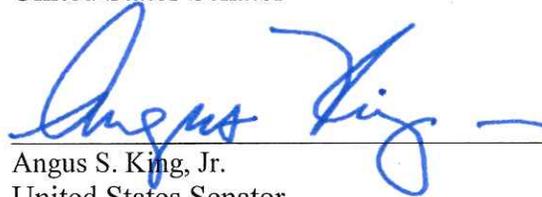
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



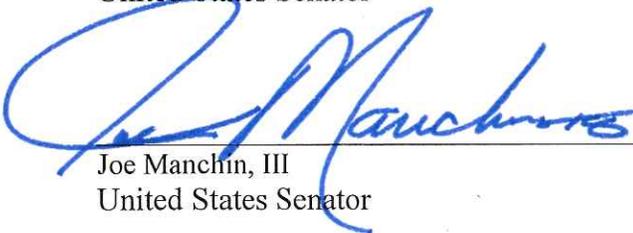
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



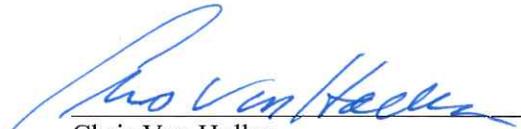
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

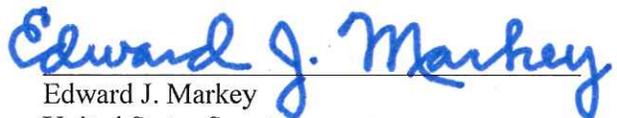


Joe Manchin, III
United States Senator

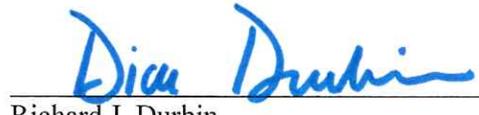


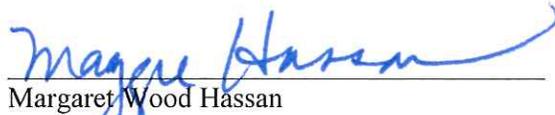
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator


Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator


Edward J. Markey
United States Senator


Joe Donnelly
United States Senator


Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator


Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator