

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 13, 2018

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS, Education & Related
Agencies
United States Congress
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education &
Related Agencies
United States Congress
Washington, D.C. 20515

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 2019, 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 \$1.3 billion, which is an increase above the FY18 funding level of \$1.212 billion. The Subcommittee's support of the 21st CCLC's is especially crucial, given the Administration has again proposed to eliminate 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. Many working parents rely on afterschool and summer learning programs as they balance their jobs and the need to provide for their children. 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 programs far exceeds the availability. Indeed, for every child in an afterschool program, two are waiting to get in—according to the 2014 report, *America After 3PM*—this need amounts to more than 19 million children whose parents 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 nearly 2 million students throughout the nation who 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 incidence 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 \$1.3 billion in funding for FY 2019.

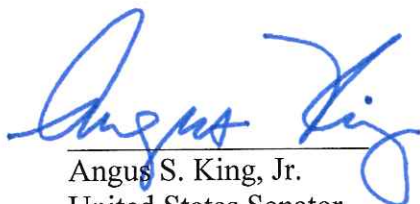
Preserving this program helps ensure a healthy economy, stronger communities, and improved educational outcomes.

Sincerely,

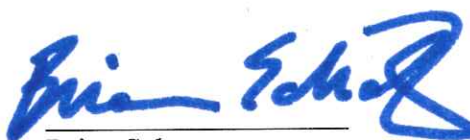
 

Tina Smith
United States Senator

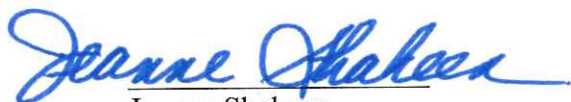
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



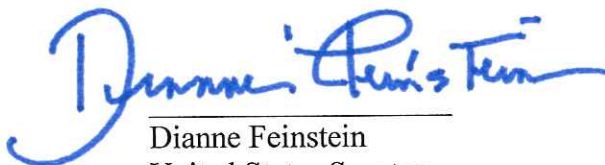
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



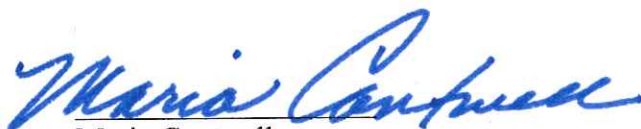
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



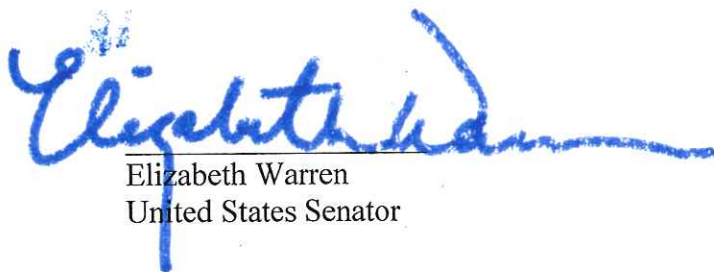
Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



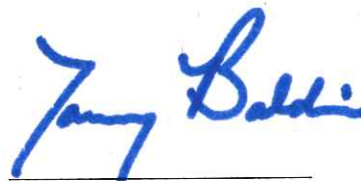
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



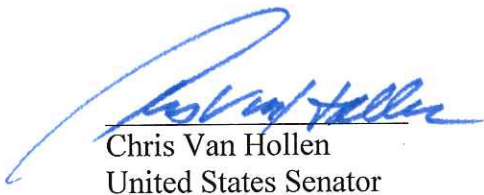
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



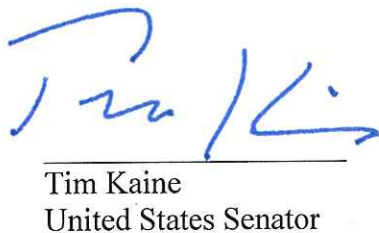
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



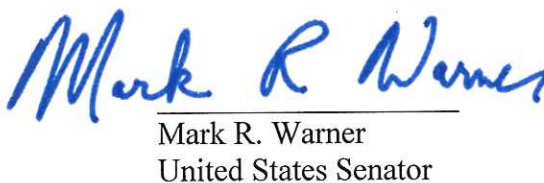
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



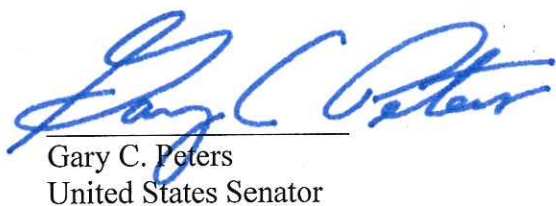
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



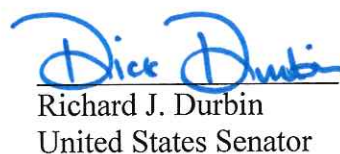
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



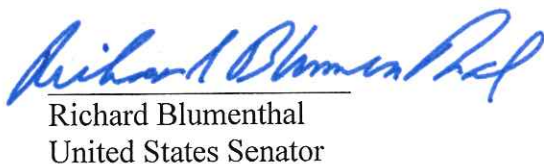
Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



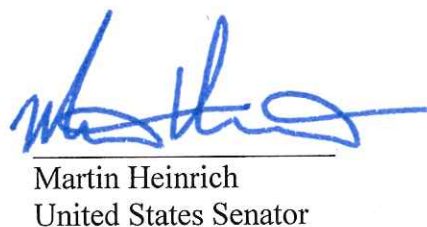
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



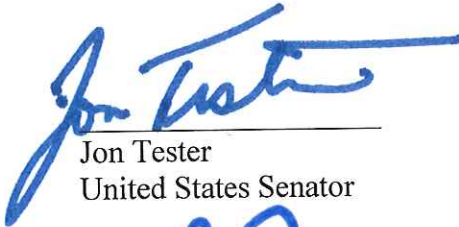
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



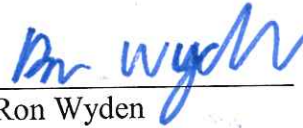
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



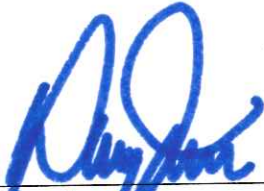
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



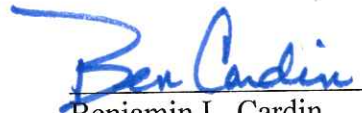
Doug Jones
United States Senator



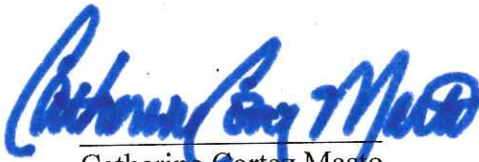
Joe Donnelly
United States Senator



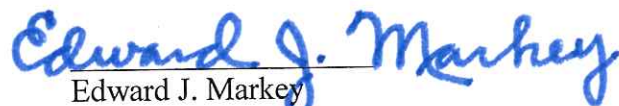
Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



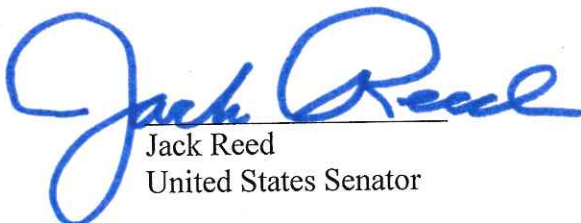
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



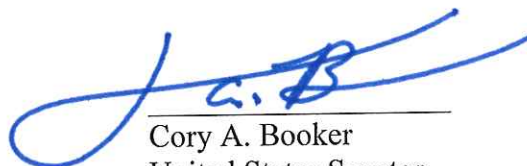
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator