

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 26, 2015

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:

We urge you to fund the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) Program at \$1.152 billion in fiscal year 2016, the amount requested by the President.

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. 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.

Afterschool programs help keep kids safe, improve academic performance, and help working families across America. 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. Even in this challenging economy, Americans recognize the need to increase support to these critical programs. We appreciate the challenging situation you face with the fiscal year 2016 appropriations bill, and thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

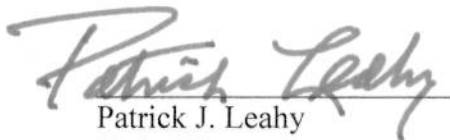
Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



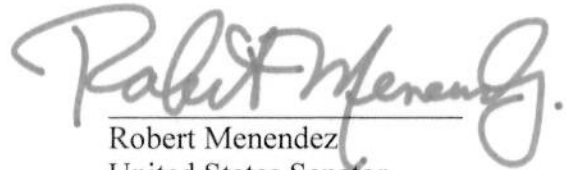
Patrick J. Leahy  
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



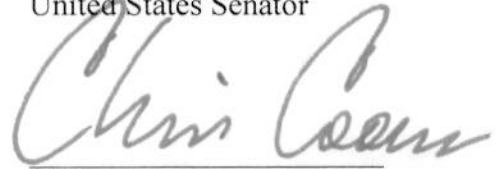
Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley  
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



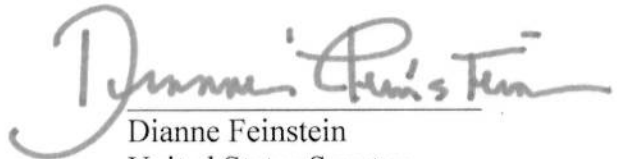
Al Franken  
United States Senator



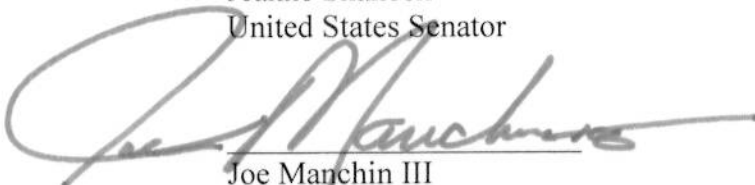
Jon Tester  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



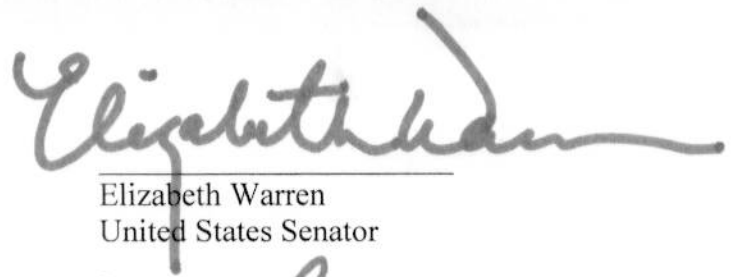
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



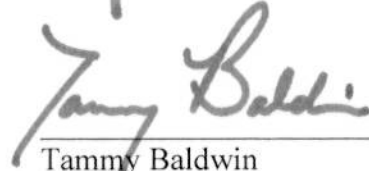
Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Bill Nelson  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



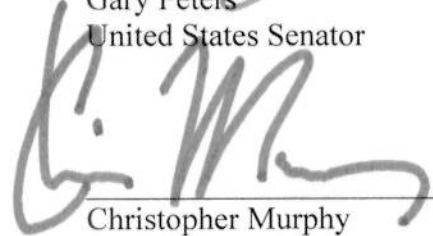
Joe Donnelly  
United States Senator



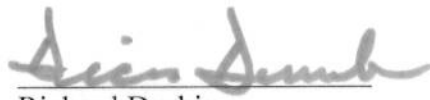
Gary Peters  
United States Senator



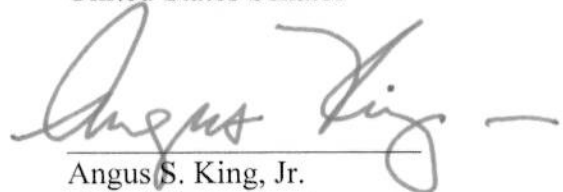
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Christopher Murphy  
United States Senator



Richard Durbin  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator