

# 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Program remains a vital resource to communities with \$1.3 billion in funding for FY 2019.

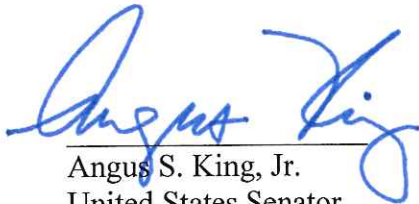
Preserving this program helps ensure a healthy economy, stronger communities, and improved educational outcomes.

Sincerely,

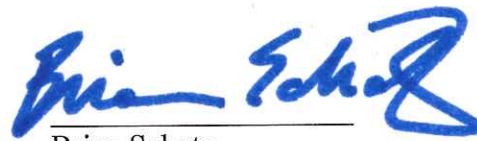
 

Tina Smith  
United States Senator

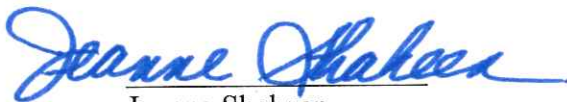
Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



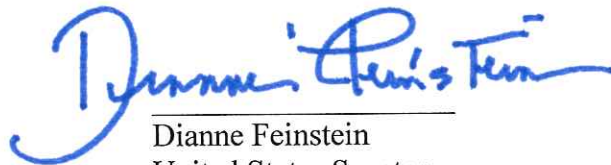
Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



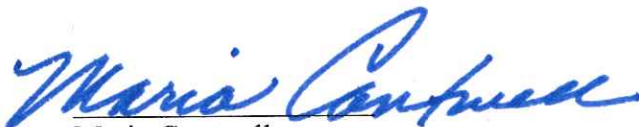
Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



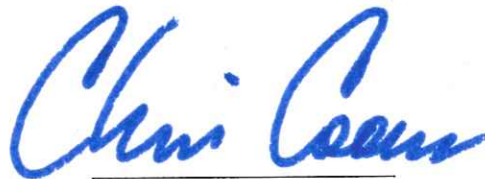
Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



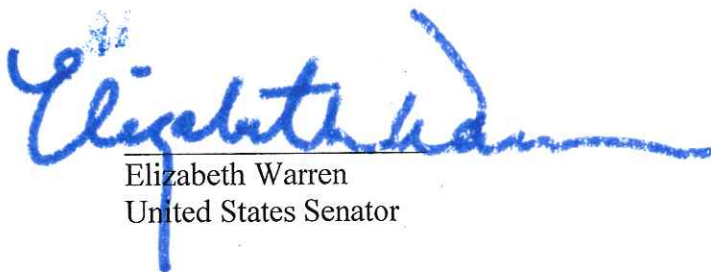
Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



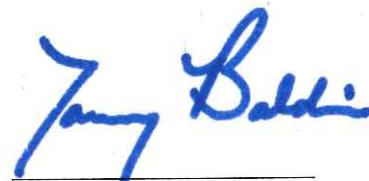
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



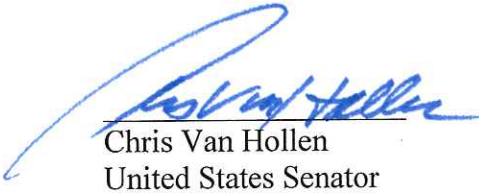
Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator

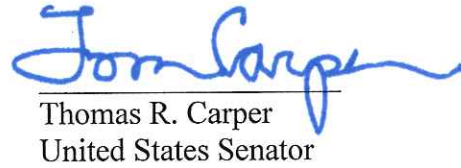


Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



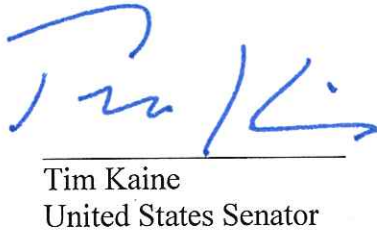
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator

  
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

  
Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator

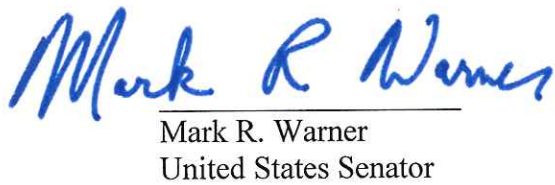
  
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator

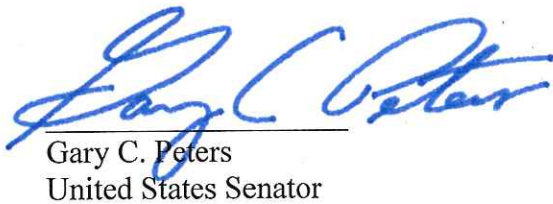
  
Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator

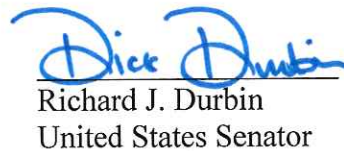
  
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

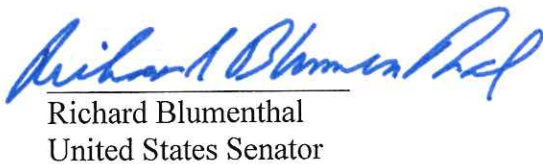
  
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator

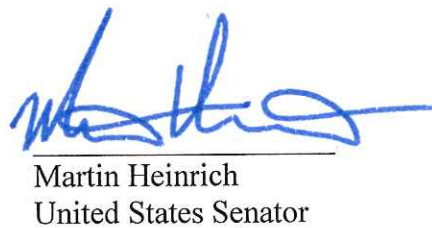
  
Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator

  
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*

Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

*Bernard Sanders*

Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator

*Jon Tester*

Jon Tester  
United States Senator

*Ron Wyden*

Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

*Doug Jones*

Doug Jones  
United States Senator

*Joe Donnelly*

Joe Donnelly  
United States Senator

*Robert Menendez*

Robert Menendez  
United States Senator

*Ben Cardin*

Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator

*Catherine Cortez Masto*

Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator

*Edward J. Markey*

Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator

*Maggie Hassan*

Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator

*Kirsten Gillibrand*

Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator

*Jack Reed*

Jack Reed  
United States Senator

*Cory A. Booker*

Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator