March 28, 2019

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and  
Human Services, Education and Related  
Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and  
Human Services, Education and Related  
Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you begin work on the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2020, we ask that you continue to support funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program (21st CCLC). Specifically, we ask that you provide $1.32 billion in funding as a step toward meeting the need for access to quality afterschool and summer programs for working families. These funds will ensure that the 1.7 million children who currently benefit from 21st CCLC will continue to have access to high quality, effective programs. This level of funding will also begin closing the opportunity gap for the 19 million more children and families that research shows would participate in programs if they were available, by ensuring programs for 100,000 additional young people.

21st CCLC is the only dedicated funding stream for afterschool and summer programs. Over a span of twenty years, researchers have built an evidence base for quality and effectiveness by studying programs across the nation. An independent report, published this March (2019) and supported by the Wallace Foundation, reviewed research from 2000 to 2017 and found programs improved a wide range of outcomes including student attendance, achievement in mathematics and English; grade promotion and graduation rates, and student health and fitness. This research spans the country, all age groups and wide variety of indicators of well-rounded student success.

In addition to providing safe, engaging spaces for youth to receive academic supports, explore their passions, connect with caring adults, build skills in leadership and communication, benefit from physical activity and a meal, and build their paths to college and career, afterschool and summer learning programs support working parents as well. Parents with children who utilize afterschool programs have the peace of mind that their children are safe and engaged in the hours after school, resulting in benefits to parents and their employers through greater workplace productivity and fewer missed days of work.

21st Century Community Learning Centers has longstanding bipartisan support in Congress and afterschool and summer programs elicit widespread public support. An October 2018 poll conducted by the bipartisan team of Lake Research Partners and the Tarrance Group found that vast majorities of the public – across gender, race, age, regional and party lines – consider afterschool programs to be important to their communities. They also found strong support for
public funding of afterschool and summer learning programs, with two in three adults saying they want their federal, state and local leaders to provide funding for afterschool and summer programs.

We thank you for your continued support of afterschool and summer learning programs, and for your work on behalf of children and working families. We ask that the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee ensure that the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program remains a vital resource to approximately 10,000 communities by providing a funding level of $1.32 billion in FY 2020.

Sincerely,

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Don Young
Member of Congress

Jim Langevin
Member of Congress

Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Ron Kind
Member of Congress
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
*Member of Congress*

Dina Titus
*Member of Congress*

Mark DeSaulnier
*Member of Congress*

Ruben Gallego
*Member of Congress*

Danny K. Davis
*Member of Congress*

André Carson
*Member of Congress*

Adriano Espaillat
*Member of Congress*

Suzanne Bonamici
*Member of Congress*

Brendan F. Boyle
*Member of Congress*

Chellie Pingree
*Member of Congress*

Kathleen M. Rice
*Member of Congress*

Thomas R. Suozzi
*Member of Congress*

Ayanna Pressley
*Member of Congress*

Pramila Jayapal
*Member of Congress*
Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress

Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Cindy Axne
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress

Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

John B. Larson
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

Jim Himes
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress