Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you begin work on the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19), 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 in order to meet the program’s needs. These funds are essential to families across the country that rely on afterschool and summer learning programs, and will ensure that nearly 1.7 million children will continue to have access to them.

The dedicated funding stream for afterschool programming provided by the 21st CCLC ensures that children have access to services that provide extended learning time, foster the development of critical thinking and other essential skills, and provide healthy meals and snacks. The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) recently analyzed 75 studies of 68 afterschool programs, and found that students showed improved behavior and performed better academically than students who did not participate in the program. Students who regularly attend these programs have better grades and behavior in school, better peer relations and emotional well-being, and lower incidences of drug-use, violence, and pregnancy.

More and more working families rely on programs funded by 21st CCLCs each year to ensure their children are in a safe environment during non-school hours, allowing them to excel in their jobs. Parents with children who utilize afterschool programs tend to be more productive and miss fewer work days.

This program is supported in Congress on a bipartisan basis and according to Afterschool Alliance, four out of five parents support public funding for afterschool programming. Preserving this program helps ensure a healthy economy, stronger communities and improved educational outcomes.
Again, we ask that you provide $1.3 billion for the 21st CCLC Program as you develop the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill so we can continue to offer this vital resource to families and communities. Thank you for your continued support for afterschool programming.

Sincerely,

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Lou Barletta
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress

Don Young
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress
Rick Larsen  
*Member of Congress*

Michelle Lujan Grisham  
*Member of Congress*

Anthony G. Brown  
*Member of Congress*

Daniel T. Kildee  
*Member of Congress*

Suzanne Bonamici  
*Member of Congress*

Ruben J. Kihuen  
*Member of Congress*

Daniel W. Lipinski  
*Member of Congress*

Kathleen M. Rice  
*Member of Congress*

Jim Langevin  
*Member of Congress*

Peter Welch  
*Member of Congress*

Peter A. DeFazio  
*Member of Congress*

Jerrold Nadler  
*Member of Congress*

Ryan A. Costello  
*Member of Congress*
Ben Ray Luján  
Member of Congress

Al Green  
Member of Congress

Charlie Crist  
Member of Congress

Frank A. LoBiondo  
Member of Congress

André Carson  
Member of Congress

Luis V. Gutiérrez  
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

John Katko  
Member of Congress

Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress
John Lewis  
*Member of Congress*

Elijah E. Cummings  
*Member of Congress*

Marcia L. Fudge  
*Member of Congress*

A. Donald McEachin  
*Member of Congress*

Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
*Member of Congress*

Jim Costa  
*Member of Congress*

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
*Member of Congress*

John B. Larson  
*Member of Congress*

Suzan DelBene  
*Member of Congress*

Brendan F. Boyle  
*Member of Congress*

Debbie Dingell  
*Member of Congress*

Sheila Jackson Lee  
*Member of Congress*

Nanette Diaz Barragán  
*Member of Congress*

Kyrsten Sinema  
*Member of Congress*