## Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2018

The Honorable Tom Cole Chairman Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies House Committee on Appropriations H-309, The Capitol Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and
Human Services, Education and Related
Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

## 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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,

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