



MEDIA ADVISORY
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Parents, Students, Educators Meet in Nation's Capitol to Tell Congress: America's Kids, Families Need More Afterschool Programs

Food Network star Tyler Florence will join other parents, plus children, educators and policy makers from around the country on May 13 and 14 to urge lawmakers to reject the President's afterschool proposal, which would cut federal funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers and convert it into a risky voucher program. Organized by the Afterschool Alliance and co-sponsored by the National League of Cities, the *Afterschool for All Challenge* gives people the chance to voice their support for the afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families.

On May 13, participants will attend sessions that address various aspects of afterschool, including:

- Meeting the Needs of Older Youth
- Afterschool Programs: Connecting Schools, Parents and Communities
- The Power of Afterschool to Prepare Youth for the Global Economy
- City-State Afterschool Partnerships
- Supporting Health and Wellness through Afterschool

All Tuesday events are open to media and will be at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, 1000 H Street NW in Washington, D.C. A schedule is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/challenge_agenda_08.pdf.

On Wednesday, May 14, *Challenge* participants will attend a "Breakfast of Champions" with members of Congress, at which the Afterschool Alliance will honor Afterschool Champions and Afterschool Innovators from around the country. Several Senators and Representatives will speak, and former Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley will be honored. Afterward, advocates will meet with lawmakers. The "Breakfast of Champions" is at 8 AM in Room G50, Dirksen Senate Office Building.

This year, President Bush proposed cutting the federal budget for afterschool programs by \$281 million and converting the successful 21st Century Community Learning Centers afterschool initiative into a voucher system. If Congress agrees, 300,000 students would lose access to afterschool programs.

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The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.