



NEWS RELEASE
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State Senator Bill Hardiman Honored as an Afterschool Champion in Nation's Capital

*Parents, Educators, Students, Afterschool Leaders
Urge Congress to Increase Afterschool Funding*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Afterschool Alliance today honored Michigan State Senator Bill Hardiman for his support for afterschool programs at the “Breakfast of Champions,” a gala event in Washington, D.C. which featured U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and After School Matters Chair First Lady Maggie Daley. Senator Hardiman was one of just seven individuals from around the country honored for supporting and working on behalf of the afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. The Michigan After-School Partnership nominated him for the honor.

In 2006, Senator Hardiman introduced legislation in the Michigan State Senate (SR 127) to make five state agencies co-chairs of the Michigan After-School Partnership. The measure, which was passed within six weeks thanks to the Senator’s efforts, greatly expanded the program and encouraged the Partnership to report its goals and development. Those state agencies are the Michigan Department of Education; the Michigan Department of Human Services; the Michigan Department of Community Health; the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries; and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth.

Senator Hardiman has also been a supporter of afterschool programs funded by Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), which help to ensure that children in low-income have access to afterschool. He also reinstated funding for afterschool programs in the state after budget cuts were instituted.

The “Breakfast of Champions” is part of the eighth annual *Afterschool for All Challenge*, sponsored by the Afterschool Alliance, which brings together hundreds of parents, educators, children, program directors and advocates from around the country for a series of events and meetings with Members of Congress. At the *Challenge*, the Afterschool Alliance released its *Roadmap to Afterschool for All*, which includes a series of recommendations to make afterschool programs available to all students.

“At this time of tremendous economic stress, America needs many more quality afterschool programs so that our kids are safe and supervised after the school day ends,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “The *No Child Left Behind Act* authorized slow, steady

increases for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative, which is the principal federal funding stream for afterschool, but right now we are far below the \$2.5 billion authorized for this year. Our *Roadmap* demonstrates just how far we are from making sure every child who needs afterschool has access to it. Reaching that goal will require increased contributions from all levels of government and the business and charitable communities. We are looking to the federal government to lead the way.” The *Roadmap* is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

Other state champions honored at the *Afterschool for All Challenge* are: THINK Together afterschool program Founder and CEO Randy Barth of Santa Ana, California; Dr. Ella Brunner, Associate Professor at Jefferson Community and Technical College in Louisville, Kentucky; Ohio State Representative Tracy Maxwell Heard; Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett of Maryland; New York State Deputy Secretary for Education Duffy Palmer; and Jeanette Scott, Principal of Eagle Ridge Elementary in Milledgeville, Georgia.

The “Breakfast of Champions” was sponsored by Abbott, United States Tennis Association, Bright House Networks, Marriott, Inc., Open Society Institute, NAMM, National Association of Chain Drug Stores, Cable in the Classroom, National Afterschool Association, National League of Cities, and Foundations, Inc.

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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.