



NEWS RELEASE
August 4, 2004

CONTACT: Gretchen Wright
202/371-1999

Afterschool Alliance Lauds Convention Speakers For Embracing Afterschool Programs

Washington, DC ---- Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Judy Y. Samelson today responded to several statements of support for afterschool programs by prominent speakers at the recent Democratic National Convention, including Senators John F. Kerry and John Edwards, Elizabeth Edwards, former President Bill Clinton, Congresswoman Louise Slaughter and Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn. Following is the text of Samelson's response:

“It's great news that afterschool played such a prominent role at the Democratic National Convention. We urge lawmakers and candidates from every party to recognize that supporting afterschool is both sound policy and a winning issue.

Voters want more afterschool programs in their communities, and worry that funding shortfalls will rob children and families of the promise of afterschool: keeping kids safe, helping working families, and inspiring kids to learn. But we face a severe shortage of afterschool programs in America today, with millions of parents who want afterschool care for their kids unable to find it, and millions of children unsupervised in the often-perilous afternoon hours.

The Afterschool Alliance encourages candidates of all parties, and independents, to join us in working to make afterschool for all a reality by the year 2010. Afterschool programs strengthen our nation by protecting and nurturing our youth.”

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization supported by a group of public, private, and nonprofit entities working to ensure that all children and youth have access to afterschool programs by 2010. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

#