



For Immediate Release
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The Afterschool Community Mourns the Passing of Rep. Don Young, Longtime Co-Chair of the House Afterschool Caucus

Statement of Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant

“Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), who passed away this weekend, was a tireless and powerful champion for children and families in Alaska and across the country, and one of Congress’ most ardent and dedicated supporters of the afterschool and summer learning programs that help children and youth succeed in school and in life. Rep. Young was a longtime member, and co-chair since 2019, of the House Afterschool Caucus, which led efforts to secure funding for out-of-school-time programs. He was lead sponsor of the bipartisan Summer Meals Act, which would fight childhood hunger and increase access to summer learning opportunities by expanding access to summer meal programs across the country.

The country’s families, educators, and afterschool supporters owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Rep. Young. Among his many contributions, he led efforts to gather congressional signers for a ‘Dear Colleague’ letter that helped win a \$30 million boost in federal funding for Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers, the chief federal funding stream for afterschool and summer learning programs, in the FY22 budget.

Our children and families, schools and communities, and our workforce and economy are much better off because of Rep. Young’s dedication, wisdom and leadership.”

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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.