Afterschool Alliance
AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

STATEMENT OF JODI GRANT
Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance
January 14, 2009

CONTACT: Gretchen Wright
202/371-1999

Afterschool Leader Praises Education Secretary Designate's Support for Afterschool Programs

"Afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families and Education Secretary-designate Arne Duncan's testimony before the Senate yesterday proves that he has learned this lesson firsthand.

From an early age, Arne Duncan was exposed to they ways in which afterschool programs helped ensure that all children get the support they need to learn and succeed. At his hearing, he spoke eloquently about his mother's afterschool tutoring program and said that Sue Duncan's Children's Center is an example of the type of partnership that we need to support learning for every child.

Mr. Duncan's support for schools becoming the centers of community life, which involves offering more afterschool and summer programs, underscores his commitment to ensuring that all children have the opportunity to be inspired with different types of learning and explore new skills in a safe, supervised environment.

Afterschool programs and their budgets have been shrinking for far too long. We need to invest in our children and their futures. We look forward to working with Mr. Duncan to realize the promise of afterschool programs and work to expand funding and support for programs so that one day we can offer quality afterschool programming to all children."

# # # #

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.