



STATEMENT OF JODI GRANT
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House Committee Vote to Increase Afterschool Funding Makes for 'A Great Day for America's Families'

"Today is a great day for America's children, families and communities. The vote by the House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee to increase funding for afterschool programs by \$125 million sets the stage for 125,000 more children to have access to enriching activities after the school day. Not only will these children be in safe places, they will have activities and opportunities that help them succeed academically, socially and professionally.

Quality afterschool programs keep children safe and healthy, inspire them to learn, and help working families. But more than 14 million kindergarten through 12th-graders take care of themselves after the school day ends, most because they have no real alternative. We will work with our partners across the country to see that the funding levels passed today become law.

In November, more than 70 percent of voters said they want our newly elected public officials in Congress to increase funding for afterschool programs. We applaud the House of Representatives for listening.

While this increase will make an enormous difference in the lives of more than 125,000 children, we still have much more to do if we are to make afterschool programs available to all the children that need them. After years of freezes and small cuts, the Subcommittee's action today is a welcome and long overdue step in the right direction of reaching our goal to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality, affordable afterschool programs. Our nation's children, families and communities will benefit when this vision is realized."

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