



STATEMENT OF  
Jodi Grant, Executive Director  
Afterschool Alliance on  
House and Senate Appropriations Committee Bills  
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## **Grant Urges Congress to Adopt House Afterschool Appropriation, Warns Against ‘Retreat from Badly Needed Investments in our Children’**

### *Statement of Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance*

“In recent weeks, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees approved separate Labor-HHS appropriations bills. We commend the House for level-funding of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) initiative, and for including language that will help ensure that afterschool funds support the quality afterschool and summer learning programs that millions of students and families rely on. The Senate bill, unfortunately, would impose a devastating cut of \$117 million from the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC initiative, denying afterschool programs to 117,000 children across the nation.

It is disappointing that both bills would eliminate important education programs and impose damaging funding cuts on others. We urge Congress to reconsider, and to avoid a harmful retreat from badly needed investments in our children, their schools and their families.

In addition to slashing afterschool funding, the Senate bill cuts or eliminates a host of programs, including VISTA, School Improvement Grants, AmeriCorps, Promise Neighborhoods, the Carol M. White Physical Education program, Full Service Community Schools, and Invest in Innovation. In all, the Senate bill would cut \$1.7 billion in federal education investments.

The bill passed by the House Appropriations Committee eliminates at least 19 education programs, including several that support out-of-school-time programs, increased learning time, physical education, and school-community partnerships. In all, the House bill chops \$2.8 billion in education funding.

In developing their budget proposals, appropriators chose to adhere to the looming sequester cap for non-defense discretionary spending set to kick in later this year, which, unless Congress acts to prevent it, will force across-the-board spending cuts of 8 percent. In the past, Congress has been able to negotiate agreements to prevent such cuts, and it needs to rise to the challenge again, so these vital programs that help give all children the opportunity to reach their potential can continue.

On its current course, however, Congress is headed for another budget showdown. We urge congressional leaders to begin bipartisan negotiations aimed at lifting the sequester caps in order

to allow for investments in health, education and other areas that enable children and their families to thrive.”

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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](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).*