



STATEMENT OF JODI GRANT  
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## **Senate Subcommittee Afterschool Funding Vote 'A Disappointment,' Nation's Top Afterschool Advocate Says**

“Today’s vote by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies to provide \$1 billion in afterschool funding next year is a disappointment. After five years of flat funding and across-the-board cuts, this is a step in the right direction – yet it only restores afterschool funding to the level we had six years ago, when the same dollars bought much more than they do today. If it stands, this funding level will leave millions of children and families without the quality afterschool programs they urgently need.

While we appreciate this small increase in funding, we urge the full Appropriations Committee and the Senate itself to go beyond restoring the cuts of past years and follow the House Appropriations Subcommittee’s lead by appropriating \$1.106 billion for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers next year.

Afterschool programs keep children safe and healthy, inspire them to learn, and help working families. Yet more than 14 million kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup>-graders take care of themselves after the school day ends. The hours after school are the most dangerous for kids. It’s a time when juvenile crime soars, when children are more likely to be victims of crime and to experiment with drugs, alcohol and inappropriate sexual activity, and when inactivity, unhealthy eating habits and boredom can lead to obesity.

Children, families and communities need more quality afterschool programs. 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 and increasing afterschool funding by \$125 million, and urge the Senate to do the same. As the appropriations bills work their way through Congress, we will do everything possible to increase funding for afterschool. America’s children and families deserve it.”

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