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## **Student Success Act Would Be a “Huge and Costly Mistake,” Afterschool Leader Warns**

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

“The legislation the U.S. House of Representatives passed last night, the Student Success Act, would be a huge and costly mistake for America’s children, families, schools and communities. It would roll back nearly 20 years of bipartisan support for, and investment in, the afterschool, before-school and summer learning programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and help working families. Some 1.6 million children and youth rely on programs supported by the federal 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) initiative, and they would be the losers if this legislation were to become law.

House passage of the Student Success Act was especially disappointing because the House Appropriations Committee just recognized the value of afterschool programs, offering a strong show of support by authorizing continued funding for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC in its fiscal year 2016 Labor-HHS appropriations bill.

Families that rely on afterschool programs must now hope that the bipartisan Every Child Achieves Act, now being considered by the Senate, passes with the language added unanimously during mark-up that strengthens and reauthorizes 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC, as well as new language that adds needed support for afterschool STEM (science, math, engineering and technology) programming.

It is essential that both the Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization process and the FY2016 spending process in both chambers of Congress support *and* fund the afterschool and summer learning programs that are essential to success in school and in life for millions of our nation’s children and youth.”

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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).*