



MEDIA ADVISORY  
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## **Prominent Business Leaders to Discuss Role of Afterschool Programs in Preparing a Competitive 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce**

America's schools, communities, policy makers and business leaders are increasingly concerned about how well our nation is preparing youth to succeed in an increasingly competitive, global economy. The Afterschool Alliance, in conjunction with the Senate Afterschool Caucus, will host a Congressional briefing at which prominent business leaders and afterschool experts will discuss the many ways that afterschool programs are helping youth develop the skills – from leadership to communications to critical thinking – needed in the 21st century workplace. Afterschool programs provide additional time for learning; engaging instructional methods; smaller group sizes; and access to project-based learning, internships, apprenticeships and jobs. The briefing is open to media. It will be held:

**Friday, July 20  
11 AM – 12:30 PM**

**Dirkson Senate Office Building, Room SD-538**

**FEATURING**

*Thomas J. Sugrue, Vice President of Government Affairs, T-Mobile USA*  
*Lorna Donatone, President, School Services Division, Sodexo, Inc.*  
*Reinaldo Llano, Director of Community Relations, Bright House Networks*  
*Jennifer Cole, Executive Director, Groundwork Providence*

Groundwork Providence is an award-winning program that trains older students for jobs relating to the environment, recycling, coastal landscaping and more.

While afterschool programs are a key resource for children and youth, programs are struggling to meet the need. Today, 14.3 million children go home alone after the school day ends. Just 6.5 million children are in afterschool programs, but the parents of another 15.3 million say their children would participate in afterschool if a program were available.

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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).*