



Afterschool Alliance

MEDIA ALERT  
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**U.S. Senators, TV Star to Join Parents, Students, Educators, Activists  
In Urging Congress to Increase Afterschool Funding  
At “Breakfast of Champions” on Wednesday**

***Star of TV’s “Andromeda” and “Hercules, The Legendary Journeys” to Speak;  
Afterschool Programs from Georgia, Tennessee & Wyoming to be Honored***

More than 500 parents, children, educators and advocates from around the country will be on Capitol Hill Wednesday to urge lawmakers to increase funding for afterschool programs, including the federal 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) afterschool initiative. Organized by the Afterschool Alliance, the “Afterschool for All Challenge” will kick off with a *Breakfast of Champions* at:

**8:30 AM Wednesday, May 18**

**Regency Ballroom A, Hyatt Regency, 400 New Jersey Avenue NW, Washington DC**

In addition to television star Kevin Sorbo, speakers will include Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA), James Jeffords (I-VT), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Ken Salazar (D-CO), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Craig Thomas (R-WY). Those Senators will join the Afterschool Alliance in presenting awards to three Afterschool Champions:

- Lilburn Elementary School, Lilburn, Georgia;
- Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority, Morristown, Tennessee; and
- Shoshoni Lights On! afterschool program, Shoshoni, Wyoming.

Afterschool Alliance Interim Executive Director Jen Rinehart will also speak.

After the *Breakfast of Champions*, activists will meet with their senators and representatives to discuss the benefits offered by afterschool programs and to urge them to fully fund the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC initiative, the chief federal funding stream for afterschool. The day’s events will conclude with *Afterschool Rocks the House* at:

**4:00 PM Wednesday, May 18**

**Rayburn House Office Building Cafeteria, Washington DC**

Sorbo will emcee the afternoon event, which will feature Representatives Patrick Kennedy (D-RI), Dale Kildee (D-MI), Nita Lowey (D-NY), Ralph Regula (R-OH), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Bill Young (R-FL). Lowey is a co-chair of the House Afterschool Caucus.

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*Afterschool Rocks the House* will showcase afterschool program activities, and students from Rhode Island will give spoken word, dance and musical performances. Participating afterschool programs include:

- Northwest Buffalo Community Center, Buffalo, **New York**
- Kenmore West High School Challenge Club, Buffalo, **New York**
- YWCA Niagara District, Lockport, **New York**
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Rochester, **New York**
- Exceptional Family Resources, Syracuse, **New York**
- Lackawanna Trail Elementary School, Factoryville, **Pennsylvania**
- AS220 Broad Street Studio, Providence, **Rhode Island**

President Bush's budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2006 allocates \$991 million for the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC initiative, which would leave federal afterschool funding at less than half the level promised in the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*. Full funding for afterschool at the authorized \$2.25 billion level would create afterschool opportunities for an additional 1.4 million children. In America today, more than 14 million children have no place to go after school.

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