As He Retires from Congress, Afterschool Community Thanks Rep. Cicilline, an Extraordinary Champion for the Programs Children and Families Need

Statement of Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance

“Representative David Cicilline has long been one of our nation’s most dedicated, powerful champions for the afterschool and summer learning programs that provide so many benefits to students, families, schools, and communities. For 12 years, he has helped lead the fight for more adequate funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers, the chief federal funding stream for out-of-school-time programs. His passionate advocacy and leadership, including serving as co-chair of the House Afterschool Caucus, played a major role in staving off cuts and instead winning badly needed increases for this essential initiative.

As he retires from Congress, the afterschool community thanks Rep. Cicilline for his remarkable support. His congressional legacy includes educating many other lawmakers about the importance of funding afterschool programs, which keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and give parents peace of mind that their children are safe and supervised after the school day ends. Rep. Cicilline’s influence has gone far beyond Rhode Island’s first congressional district and well beyond his state. He has been a tireless advocate for afterschool at the local, state and federal levels. We are privileged that he has been, and will remain, an active member of the Afterschool Alliance’s board of directors.

Congress’ loss is the Rhode Island Foundation’s gain. The afterschool community wishes Rep. Cicilline well in his next endeavor, as President and CEO of the Rhode Island Foundation. We are grateful that we will continue to partner with him as we advocate to make afterschool programs available to all students and families who need them.”

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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.