

**From:** Nicole LaPointe [nlapointe@nvtahec.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 9:37 AM  
**To:** Theresa Utton  
**Subject:** Testimony on budget hearing: Vermont afterschool programs

Hello,

My name is Nicole LaPointe and I live in West Burke, Vermont. Thank you for taking the time to receive my testimony on the importance of afterschool programs to Vermont students.

In Governor Scott's Budget Address, he spoke about creating the best Cradle-to-Career system in the nation, giving our kids the brightest possible future, and attracting more families to all areas of Vermont. As a designer and instructor of Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELOs) in health career exploration and science enrichment, I know that the afterschool setting is one of the best out-of-school environments to offer fun, hands-on workforce development skills and engaging STEM education. Supporting education initiatives in the afterschool setting benefit all Vermont kids, by providing access to high quality programs that encourage critical academic and career skills.

I would like to ask that the legislature fund the Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) Special Fund with an appropriation of \$2.5 million for Fiscal Year 2019. An annual appropriation of \$2.5 million would ensure all high-need communities in Vermont could get the financial support they need to make sure that children, youth, and families have access to quality afterschool and summer learning programs.

I hope the Appropriations committees will make the financial commitment to support expanded learning opportunities for all kids in VT by allocating funds to the ELO Special Fund in FY19.

Thank you for your consideration,

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