

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 1, 2017

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

As the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education works to finalize the FY 2017 appropriations process, we urge you to provide \$1.167 billion in funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Program in the final budget. At this level, which is equal to FY2016 spending, providers of afterschool and summer learning programs will be able to sustain quality programming for 1.6 million children in high-need communities.

Afterschool programs are locally designed, innovative initiatives that meet the needs of students and families and provide a safe haven. In communities all across the nation, young people are developing the skills necessary to succeed in school, work, and life in their afterschool and summer learning programs. Children who attend afterschool programs do better in class and are more likely to graduate from high school, and parents whose kids have access to afterschool programs are more productive at work and miss fewer work days.

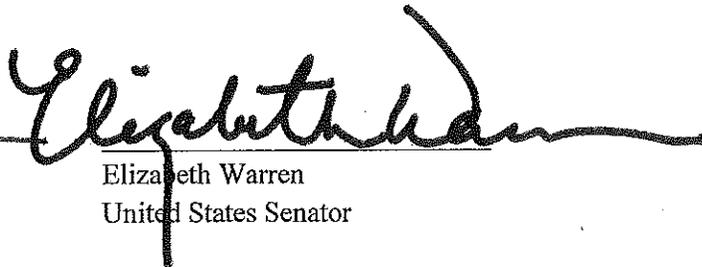
Afterschool programs are critical to children and families, yet communities are struggling to meet the demand. For every child in an afterschool program, two are waiting to get in. Four in five parents, across every demographic and political affiliation, support public funding for afterschool. The lack of affordable afterschool hinders families' ability to get ahead, businesses' ability to hire the local workforce they need to thrive, and students' ability to develop into productive, successful members of our society.

Support for afterschool is broad, deep, enduring and bipartisan. We ask that you continue to support these critical programs by providing \$1.167 billion in fiscal year 2017 for the 21st CCLC program. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

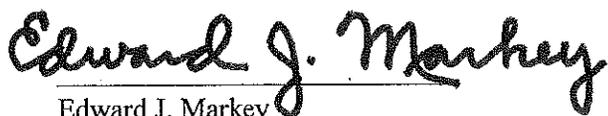
Sincerely,



Al Franken
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Joe Donnelly
United States Senator



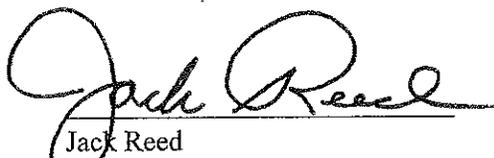
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



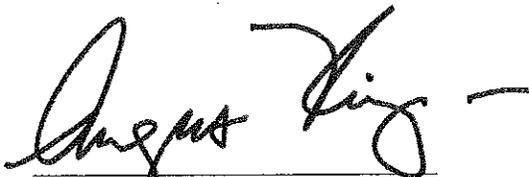
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Joe Manchin
United States Senator



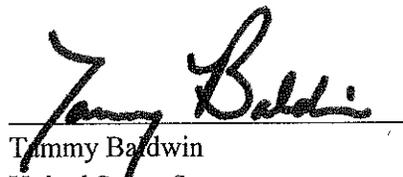
Jack Reed
United States Senator



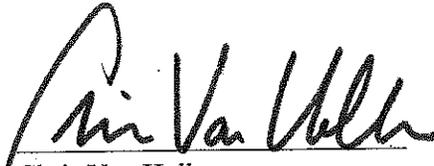
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



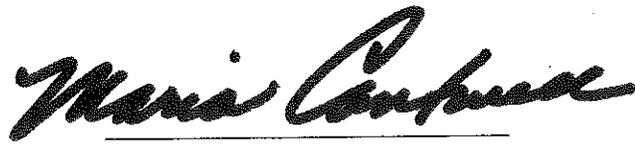
Cory Booker
United States Senator



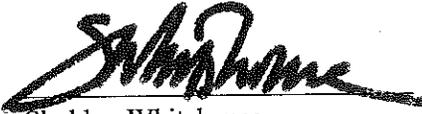
Timmy Baldwin
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



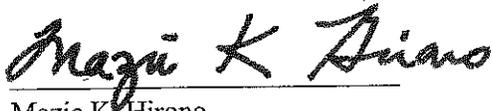
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



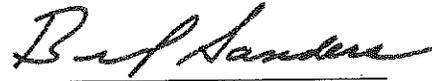
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator