



# The Collaborative for Building After-School Systems

June 19, 2013

The Honorable George Miller  
Senior Democratic Member, House Committee on Education and the Workforce  
United States Congress  
2101 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senior Democratic Member Miller,

We, the undersigned advocates for high quality after school, summer, and expanded learning programs and partners in the Collaborative for Building After School Systems, write to express our thoughts on policy direction for the reauthorization of the 21<sup>st</sup> Community Learning Center program (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) in the Democratic substitute amendment. First and foremost, we thank you for your longstanding leadership in public education, particularly in supporting the important role of after school, summer, and expanded learning programs in helping to ensure all students succeed.

Second, we write to lend our support for your efforts to expand and strengthen the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). We very much appreciate that the bill includes language that requires partnerships as part of the program. As nonprofit intermediary organizations, we believe programs that foster strong partnerships between community-based organizations and local school districts are the best way to support student success. Specifically, we are pleased to support the following policies that were included in your substitute that will strengthen the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program as part of ESEA:

***Ensuring strong partnerships.*** The legislation requires that local educational agencies partner with community based organizations in order to receive funding. Likewise, community based organizations that wish to receive funding must partner with local educational agencies.

***Ensuring partners are included in professional development activities.*** The legislation requires that 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funds be used to provided teachers and other educators, as well as their non-profit partners with increased opportunities to work collaboratively and to participate in professional development, within and across grades and subjects.

***Ensuring that programs have the capacity to succeed by strengthening the role of intermediaries to support systems-building efforts.*** The legislation allows intermediaries to receive subgrants for technical assistance.

***Allowing grant renewal.*** Grants are renewable for an additional five years if program is performing well under improved accountability system.

As the bill goes to the floor and conference we look forward to continuing to work with you on how coordinated redesign efforts within the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program can most effectively serve all students, especially students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools.

Thank you again for your steadfast leadership and support for expanded learning opportunities for our nation's youth. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Jessica Donner, CBASS Director, at [jdonner@tascorp.org](mailto:jdonner@tascorp.org) or 646-943-8738.

Sincerely,

Rebkha Atnafou, Executive Director, The After-School Institute, Baltimore  
Lauren J. Bierbaum, Executive Director, Partnership for Youth Development  
Mary Ellen Caron, Chief Executive Officer, After School Matters, Chicago  
Lucy N. Friedman, President, The After School Corporation, New York City  
Suzette L. Harvey, Executive Director, Prime Time Palm Beach County  
Candy Markman, Director, Nashville After Zone Alliance  
Ellie Mitchell, Director, Baltimore's Safe and Sound Campaign  
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Hillary Salmons, Executive Director, Providence After School Alliance  
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Sandra J. Ward, Director, Hartford Partnership for Student Success  
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