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Nashville, TN

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Bay Area, CA

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Providence After School Alliance
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Prime Time Palm Beach County
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The After-School Corporation (TASC)
New York, NY

Youthprise
Twin Cities, MN

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Every Hour Counts Sign-On Letter for Congressman Cicilline. Please email Chris at cmai@everyhourcounts.org to add your name and organization to the letter. If you have questions, please email or call Chris at 646-943-8737.

Hon. David Cicilline
United States Congress
128 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Cicilline,

We, the undersigned providers and advocates for high-quality education programs and partnerships, write to lend our support for your efforts to incorporate core elements of high-quality programs that provide critical support to help students gain the skills, knowledge and experience they need for college and careers into a wider-range of existing federal programs.

The bill you plan to introduce is an important step forward toward improving federal programs. Through your bill, you have underscored several critical elements of high-quality programs to ensure that all institutions preparing youth for college, career, and life will increase rates of success, such as:

- *Ensuring strong school-community partnerships.* Years of evidence demonstrate that effective partnerships and improved systems can accelerate results and grow the capacity for sustained, long-term impact. This legislation rightly requires high-quality partnerships for joint planning and implementation; shared professional development that improves teaching effectiveness of school site staff and community partner staff; shared student data systems that support program improvement and student learning; and alignment and coordination of student learning goals, curriculum, activities, and training.
- *Strengthening the role of intermediaries to support systems-building efforts.* Intermediaries help schools and nonprofits excel at direct student services, while providing the wrap-around services needed to build capacity, sustain and grow scalable programs, and get results. The use of intermediaries in this legislation will build capacity and systems



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across programs to increase the return on investment, ensure sustainability, and improve results.

- *Increasing the quality of programs and service delivery through data sharing.* Too often institutions and sectors within a community that provide services to youth are uncoordinated and do not share information about the youth they serve leading to duplication of effort and reinventing the wheel each time a young person shows up at an institution's door. Effective data systems can be a critical element to breaking down silos and forging new partnerships that more effectively serve youth across systems. We support the data-sharing requirements in this legislation that allow for more accurate program evaluation, accountability and provide for continuous quality improvement to ensure that programs meet the needs of individual students.
- *Improving accountability.* Outcomes and proof of effectiveness are critical to any program's success. This legislation calls for the inclusion of data on critical youth outcomes, including academic achievement and 21st century skills, such as critical thinking, problem solving, communication and collaboration. A strengthened and improved accountability system will include a range of measures that are academic and developmental, and rely on more than one measure for determining program progress and success.

We support these policies because we believe they are critical to strengthening and improving federal programs from K-12 education to the workforce. 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.

Sincerely,

After School Matters (Chicago), Allegheny Partners for Out-of-School Time (Pittsburgh), BE A CHAMPION, INC. (Houston), Beyond School Bells (Nebraska), Boston After School and Beyond, The Center for Youth Engagement/ Beyond the Bell Milwaukee, Connecticut After School Network, DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation, Dallas Afterschool, Dallas Education Foundation,



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Every Hour Counts, Family League of Baltimore, Michigan's Children, Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board, Nashville After Zone Alliance, National Summer Learning Association, Office of Children, Youth and Learning (Cumberland, RI), Partnership for Children and Youth (Bay Area, CA), Prime Time Palm Beach County, Providence After School Alliance, The After-School Corporation (New York), United Way for Greater Austin, Youth Development Executives of King County (Washington) and Youthprise (Twin Cities, MN).

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