

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2017

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director, Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney:

We write to express our deep concerns over reports that the President's Fiscal Year 2018 budget request will include elimination of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program. This critical program provides a direct funding stream to allow children to have access to afterschool programming. We ask that you reconsider this misguided proposal.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers program was reauthorized on a bipartisan basis in 2015 under the Every Student Succeeds Act. The program assists working families who rely more and more on afterschool and summer learning programs to effectively balance maintaining a job while raising children in a safe environment. These afterschool programs provide not only academic enrichment for students, but also teach critical life skills, and provide healthy meals and snacks.

Because of increased demand for these programs, many learning centers are being forced to reduce services, increase fees, or even shut their doors because they do not have the resources to meet the needs of communities. According to Afterschool Alliance, eliminating this program would cause 1.16 million kids to lose access to critical afterschool programming. This would create turmoil for countless families who rely on afterschool programs across the country.

We thank you for your attention to this matter, and ask that you strongly reconsider any proposals to eliminate the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program from the administration's budget proposal.

Sincerely,



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta
Member of Congress