

**For Immediate Release**

September 14, 2017

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## Congressional Reps Collins and Reed Cast Votes Against NY's Children

*Only two out of NY's 27 Congressional Representatives to vote against Lowey/DeLauro Amendment (#161) to restore \$100 million of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers funds*

Albany NY – Congressional Representatives Chris Collins, (R-NY-27) and Tom Reed (R-NY-23) cast votes against the children of New York when they voted in opposition of the [Lowey/DeLauro Amendment](#) (#161) to restore \$100 million of 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) funds.

The Amendment, which will restore some of the money to the \$1.192 billion afterschool program, passed with bi-partisan support from the 25 other members of New York's Congressional Delegation including 18 Democrats and 7 Republicans.

21<sup>st</sup> CCLC is a federally funded program that provides funding for community learning centers that operate afterschool and summer programs for students, particularly those who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools, and their families.

“We thank the 228 Congressional Representatives, especially the 25 from New York, who supported this critical, partial restoration of the 21st CCLC program,” said Kelly Sturgis, Executive Director of the New York State Network for Youth Success. “Representatives Collins and Reed should explain to the 4,053 youth and the families in their districts who rely on afterschool and summer programs funded through 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC why they think these kids do not deserve a safe, supportive place to go afterschool.”

Even with this increase, the House appropriation is less than the \$1.192 billion the Senate Appropriations Committee passed for 21st CCLC next year, which is equal to Fiscal Year 2017 funding for 21st CCLC.

The afterschool community will work with budget negotiators on both sides of the aisle to convince them to adopt the Senate Appropriations Committee's funding for 21st CCLC in Fiscal Year 2018.

Even with this appropriation, the unmet need for afterschool is great. The [America After 3PM](#) household survey of more than 30,000 families, commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance, found that for every child in an afterschool program, two more are waiting to get in. One in five

students in the United States is unsupervised after the school day ends. Like Congress, the public does not want afterschool funding to be cut. Last month's [2017 PDK Poll found](#) that 92 percent of respondents back the provision of afterschool programs; it is the latest in a long line of surveys that have found overwhelming public support for these programs.

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### **About The New York State Network for Youth Success**

The New York State Network for Youth Success is dedicated to building a youth-serving system that increases the quality and availability of afterschool and expanded learning programs.

The Network for Youth Success supports all programs that promote young people's intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development outside the traditional school day. These programs include those that serve youth in kindergarten through 12th grade, take place in schools and/or in community-based settings, and occur before and after school, during weekends, holidays, and summer breaks, or during the school day through partnerships with community organizations.

The Network for Youth Success convenes partners and coordinates them around a common agenda focused on partnership development, policy development, and capacity building. The network connects practice with policy across a broad range of state, regional, and local partners that represent the afterschool, expanded learning, community schools, and youth development fields broadly.