

July 30, 2007

The Honorable George Miller  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and Labor  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Howard "Buck" McKeon  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and Labor  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller and Ranking Member McKeon:

The undersigned organizations ask you to include the Full-Service Community Schools Act (H.R. 2323) in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act/No Child Left Behind Act.

Students face many challenges in their lives, their families and their communities that affect their success in school. The education system is unrealistically expected to respond alone to all of these challenges without support from other institutions. Much more must be done to fully engage communities as partners with schools to meet these needs in order to improve student success. The Full-Service Community Schools Act will facilitate local school-community collaboration to more efficiently and effectively meet students' needs in and outside the classroom.

This important legislation will bring together resources available at schools and within communities to foster student success. Communities throughout the country that have formed effective partnerships produce remarkable results, ranging from improved student attendance to reduced dropout rates. Unfortunately, these partnerships are more the exception than the rule.

We must not let schools alone shoulder the responsibility of educating our students. The Full-Service Community Schools Act will help to strategically align the efforts of communities and schools, leveraging existing resources in new and innovative ways. Together, we can ensure that students receive the support they need to be successful in school, prepared for college and work, and engaged as leaders in our communities.

Sincerely,

21st Century School Fund  
Albuquerque Bernalillo County Community Schools Partnership  
American Association of School Administrators  
American Federation of Teachers  
America's Promise Alliance  
Annenberg Institute for School Reform  
Bay Area Partnership for Children and Youth  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of America  
Boston Connects Program-Boston College  
Boston Full Service School Roundtable  
California Center for Community School Partnerships  
Camp Fire USA  
Center for Community Partnerships, University of Pennsylvania  
Center for Social and Emotional Education  
Chicago Public Schools

Children's Aid Society  
Coalition for Community Schools  
Community Agencies Corp of NJ  
Community Learning & Public Service- University of New Mexico  
Comstock Park Public Schools, Comstock Park Michigan  
Family Nurturing Center of Massachusetts  
Federation for Community Schools  
First Focus  
Forum for Youth Investment  
Foundations, Inc  
Grand Rapids Community Foundation  
Illinois Federation for Community Schools  
John W. Gardner Center for Youth & Their Communities, Stanford University  
Kent County (MI) Services Network-Network180  
KnowledgeWorks Foundation  
Lincoln Community Learning Centers  
Local Investment Commission  
MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership  
Metropolitan Human Services Commission  
National AfterSchool Association  
National Assembly on School-Based Health Care  
National Association of Secondary School Principals  
National Center for Schools and Communities at Fordham University  
National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education  
National Education Association  
National Parent Teacher Association  
National Service Learning Partnership  
New Visions for Public Schools  
Public Education Network  
Rhode Island Afterschool Plus Alliance  
Rockland 21st Century Collaborative for Children and Youth  
Rural School and Community Trust  
Save the Children  
Supervisor John Gioia, District One, Contra Costa County, California  
The Colorado Foundation for Families and Children  
Tulsa Area Community Schools Initiative  
Voices for Illinois Children  
Volunteers of America  
YMCA of the USA  
Youth Service America