March 30, 2017

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services and Related Agencies
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services and Related Agencies
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services and Related Agencies
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services and Related Agencies
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Appropriators:

On behalf of MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership and our national network of affiliate partners, we write to offer our strong opposition to the President’s recommendation to eliminate funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program in his first budget request to Congress. We write today to call on your Subcommittees to protect funding for 21st Century in fiscal year 2018 and ensure that high quality, evidence-based afterschool programs continue to support young people and their families. For every dollar invested in quality afterschool programs, more than $9 is saved by improving student academic performance, reducing costs associated with crime and welfare, and increasing the future earning potential of the young people who benefitted1.

21st Century Community Learning Centers are a true reflection of the communities they support. These centers work collaboratively with schools, nonprofit community groups, faith-based organizations, private businesses, and young people to identify unique needs and target resources and services where they are needed most. They provide a lifeline for working families who need a safe and enriching environment to send their children outside of school time. And, these centers excel at true collaboration; finding partners to

contribute financially, shape curriculum, share resources, and serve the community most effectively.

MENTOR, our affiliates, and many mentoring and youth-serving organizations across the country proudly collaborate with high quality 21st Century before-, after-school and summer learning programs to support young people. In fact, many of these programs partner with mentoring organizations strategically in order to best support the students in their care.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers program is commonsense, bipartisan, and effective, and deserves continued investment from Congress. Thank you for your careful consideration of this critical program benefitting every state in the nation.

Sincerely,

MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership
California Mentoring Partnership
Mentor Colorado
MENTOR Illinois
Iowa Mentoring Partnership
Mass Mentoring Partnership
Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota
Midlands Mentoring Partnership (Nebraska)
The Newark Mentoring Partnership (New Jersey)
Mentor New York
The Mentoring Center of Central Ohio
Institute for Youth Success at Education Northwest (Oregon)
Mentoring Partnership and Resource Center of Southeastern Pennsylvania
Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania
Rhode Island Mentoring Partnership
Team Up Youth Mentoring Partnership (Tennessee)
Mobius – Vermont’s Mentoring Partnership
Virginia Mentoring Partnership
Mentoring Works Washington