*[ON LETTERHEAD]*

DATE

The Honorable Kevin McCarty

Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance

State Capitol

Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax # (916) 319-2107

**RE: Support After School Funding Increase**

Dear Chairman McCarty:

The ORGANIZATION urges the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance to provide $99.135 million in needed funding to the After School Education and Safety (ASES) program in response to the statutory minimum wage increases that have been passed onto these programs.

ASES serves more than 400,000 students daily in 4,000 programs. ASES programs provide academic and enrichment opportunities that are essential to closing the opportunity and achievement gap, keep kids safely off of the streets during the prime time for crime by and against children, and offer essential child care for working parents. California-specific research has proven that these programs have a range of positive impacts including improved school attendance, English fluency, academic success, crime prevention, improved health and nutrition, and important social-emotional skill development. They are also cost-effective—with $2 to $9 dollars saved for every $1 invested. These programs provide hundreds of additional learning hours to underserved students. On average, ASES programs operate at schools with over 80% of students qualifying for Free or Reduced Price Meals.

Despite increases in the state minimum wage (47%) and cost of living (21%), the state has not increased the budget for ASES since 2006. As a result, ASES programs have been stretched to their breaking point. Most programs surveyed in 2016 have already had to reduce enrichment activities; academic supports, staff hours and/or training, and 29% are very likely to close their doors altogether within the next two years without an increase in the daily rate.

*[BRIEFLY DESCRIBE WHY THIS RATE INCREASE IS SO IMPORTANT, THE VALUE OF YOUR PROGRAM, AND/OR ANY SPECIFIC NEGATIVE OR FINANCIAL IMPACTS YOUR PROGRAM HAS EXPERIENCED AS A RESULT OF INCREASED COSTS]*

Please support children and families across the state by ensuring they can continue to have access to the vital educational resources after school programs provide.

Sincerely,

SIGNATURE

NAME

ORGANIZATION