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**AB 1085 (McCarty) – Substance Use Prevention Through After School Programs**

**Sponsor:** California Afterschool Advocacy Alliance

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**As Introduced:** February 21, 2019

**SUMMARY**

AB 1085 ensures that after school programs are prioritized to receive Proposition 64 (Prop 64) cannabis tax funding. When voters passed Prop 64, they were promised that generated revenues would go to support after school programs. These programs prevent and reduce substance use for students and help to improve school retention and academic performance.

**ISSUE**

Research shows that substance use dramatically increases in the unsupervised after school hours. Research also shows that after school programs reduce substance use.

High-quality after school programs help prevent and reduce substance use by not only keeping kids supervised after school, but also building protective factors, such as: school connectedness, self-control, quality peer relationships, increasing academic skills, and positive school behaviors. These protective factors make kids less likely to use drugs. After school programs also improve school attendance and reduce drop out rates, while providing essential academic support and enrichment opportunities to help each student succeed in school and life.

Today, state and federally-funded after school programs serve nearly 500,000 K-12 students daily at more than 4,500 schools. These programs operate in the highest poverty communities—84% of students enrolled in these programs are socio-economically disadvantaged.

However, after school programs cannot meet the current and growing demand with current funding. The state-funded After School Education and Safety (ASES) program is threatened by funding that has only seen one increase (9%) since 2007, despite a 50% increase in the state minimum wage. As a result, programs are cutting services for students, and some will have to shut down altogether.

For the last two years, President Trump has called for the elimination of funding for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) in his budget blueprint. 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funding supports after school and summer programs, and is the only public funding source for high school programs.

Additionally, over 2,500 low-income schools in California do not receive any public funding for programs. 2.4 million more children in California would participate if a program were available.

In November of 2016, the voters passed Prop 64—the Control, Regulate and Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Act of 2016—which legalizes, regulates, and taxes the adult use of cannabis. The initiative is expected to generate up to \$1 billion annually in tax revenue. After implementation costs, 60% of revenues are dedicated to youth education, prevention, and treatment. The Yes on Prop. 64 ballot argument stated that Proposition, “64 pays for itself and raises billions for afterschool programs that help kids stay in school.”

The Prop 64 campaign clearly articulated its intent for after school programs to be a prime beneficiary of this new revenue and it is critical that laws and regulations honor this intent.

**SOLUTION**

AB 1085 expressly includes afterschool programs as a permissible use of the Youth Education, Prevention, Early Intervention and Treatment account established under Prop 64 in order to help ensure afterschool funding is prioritized to prevent and reduce youth substance use and improve school retention and performance.

AB 1085 keeps the promise made by California voters to use cannabis revenue to fund high-quality after school programs for youth.

**SUPPORT**

California Afterschool Advocacy Alliance (Sponsor)  
Fight Crime Invest in Kids  
Partnership for Children & Youth