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January 13, 2006

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# Lobby Day For AfterSchool Programs

## February 16, 2006

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### **3 Ways to Make a BIG Difference:**

- **Breakfast with the Legislators – 7:00 to 9:00 a.m.**

Iowa State Capitol, Room 116

**Sponsored by Iowa Community Education Association**

Join Iowa Community Education Association, Iowa Afterschool Alliance, and Iowa PTA for breakfast with legislators in the capitol.

**For information, contact:** Cindy Maulsby 515-727-4220 [cmaulsby@ypii.org](mailto:cmaulsby@ypii.org)

OR John Calhoun 515-210-8442 [jbcald@mchsi.com](mailto:jbcald@mchsi.com)

*This activity takes the most time, but is soooo worthwhile!!*

- **Call Your Legislators**

Call from wherever you are on Thursday, February 16 and tell your legislators to support afterschool programs.

Call once to leave a message for your state representative:

(515) 281-3221

Call once more to leave a message for your state senator:

(515) 281-3371

Don't know who your legislators are? Go to: <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/>

Click on Legislators on the left sidebar, then select Find Your Legislator.

Simply enter your address to find your senator and representative.

*This activity takes LESS THAN 5 MINUTES – a real bargain!!*

- **E-mail Your Legislators**

Most state legislators are very responsive to e-mail messages, which makes this a very simple and effective method of communicating with your legislators.

To find your legislator's email address, go to: <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/>

Click on Legislators on the left sidebar

Select House Email Addresses for a list of representatives

Select Senate Email Addresses for a list of senators

Send a short e-mail message to your representative and senator on Thursday, Feb. 16.

You MUST include your home address so they know you are a constituent!

Don't know who your legislators are? Go to: <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/>

Click on Legislators on the left sidebar, then select Find Your Legislator.

Simply enter your address to find your senator and representative.

*This activity takes LESS THAN 5 MINUTES – another bargain!!*

**We want to flood legislator's voice mail and e-mail with messages.  
Urge them to support AfterSchool Programs for safe kids and safe communities!**

## Talking with Legislators about AfterSchool Programs

Legislators hear from a multitude of individuals regarding many, many issues. As advocates for children, it is up to us to ensure that legislators know about our concern for the issues that affect the lives of children and families. If you don't tell them – who will?

Whether you talk to your legislators in person, or by phone or e-mail, it is important to limit the message to one issue and be brief. Whenever possible, include your own personal story or any other specific information you may have that makes this a real-life issue.

Following are “talking points” that you can use in your message to your legislators about afterschool programs. You do not need to mention every point, but pick one or two that fit your situation or are important to your community.

### Talking Points for AfterSchool Programs

#### **Afterschool programs keep kids safe and out of trouble.**

- There are over 300,000 children ages 5 through 12 in Iowa who could benefit from afterschool programs.
- Most delinquent activity by youth occurs between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- Teens who do not participate in afterschool programs are three times more likely to use marijuana or other drugs, and they are more likely to drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes, and engage in sexual activity.

#### **Afterschool programs help working families**

- Iowa has the greatest percentage of families in the nation with both (or the only) parent working.
- Even if an afterschool program is available, many working families cannot afford the cost of a high-quality program.

#### **Afterschool programs support student learning**

- High-quality, school-linked afterschool programs are a proven method for improving academic achievement, decreasing grade retention, and increasing student attendance and interest in school.
- Experiential and non-traditional educational opportunities during the non-school hours can be used to enhance and extend classroom learning.
- Teens who do not participate in afterschool programs are nearly three times more likely to skip classes at school than teens who do participate.
- In a 2005 survey of Iowa superintendents by the Iowa PTA, thirty-three percent of the administrators who responded reported that there was a need in their district for support for students who are living in poverty, homeless, unable to speak English, have behavioral problems, or lack support at home. After-school programs can help to meet the special needs of these students by providing tutoring, enrichment, and other opportunities that they might otherwise not receive.

#### Sources of Data:

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Statistical Briefing Book

After School for America's Teens, YMCA of the USA, 2001

Children's Defense Fund, 2003

Harvard Family Research Project, *A Review of Out-of-School Time Program Quasi-Experimental and Experimental Evaluation Results*, 2003

***Thank you for being an advocate for children!***

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#### **National PTA Legislative Information –**

- To receive National PTA's weekly e-newsletter, “*This Week in Washington*”, go to: [capwiz.com/npta2/mlm/signup](http://capwiz.com/npta2/mlm/signup)
- For information on National PTA issues, go to: [http://www.pta.org/ia\\_issues.html](http://www.pta.org/ia_issues.html)

#### **Iowa PTA Legislative Information –**

- To subscribe to Iowa PTA “Legislative News”, go to: [www.iowapta.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=legislative.network](http://www.iowapta.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=legislative.network)
  - To view previous issues of the e-newsletter, go to: [www.iowapta.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=updates.main](http://www.iowapta.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=updates.main)
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