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President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

July 9, 2025

Dear President Trump,

I write to you today to express concern about the withholding of federal funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers. These programs are vital for Hudson Valley communities, and I urge you to reconsider this decision.

As you know, 21st Century Community Learning Centers (Title IV, Part B) provide before- and after-school programming focused on academic development, aimed at bolstering state and local standards in core subjects. These programs are particularly impactful for low-income students in low-performing schools.

This program is deeply aligned with your Administration's goals to return power to education authorities, instead of Washington, DC bureaucrats. State Education Agencies are fully responsible for administering the grant, providing each community with the opportunity to distribute funding where it is most needed.

Further, 21st Century Community Learning Centers are a perfect example of what happens when we take the federal government out of education - outcomes are better. Students that participate in these programs have been found to have better attendance records, are more engaged in their classes, and see improvements in their academic performance, including in reading and math.

The New York State Education Department has distributed awards to several communities in NY-17, including to the New Square Community Improvement Council, Peekskill City School District, United Way of Westchester and Putnam, and Westchester Jewish Community Services. Students in these programs rely on 21st Century Community Learning Center funding to support their education.

This program is a valuable investment with proven results. I urge you to distribute funding to states prior to the beginning of the upcoming school year, in keeping with your education goals to return power to states and local communities. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Lawler".

Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress