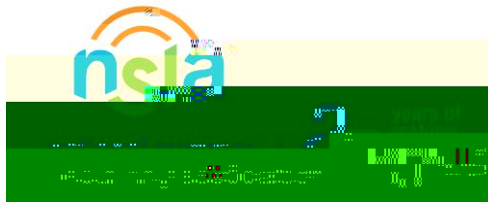


September 6, 2019

The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chair
The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member
Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray,

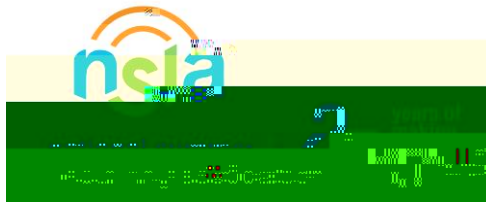
The undersigned national, state, and local organizations



Sadly, for many kids, summer equals hunger. Good summer programs provide students with access to nutritious meals, which millions of children in the U.S. need. In July 2017, the Summer Nutrition Programs reached only one in seven children who ate a free or reduced-price school lunch during the 2016-2017 school year. A 2018 report from the GAO shows that much work is needed to ensure youth are participating in the Summer Nutrition Programs. This bill is one step in that effort.

Targeted federal support goes a long way toward helping states and local communities leverage their existing resources to maintain support for the most vulnerable students during the summer months. Programs that bring together natural partners like schools and libraries and include the critical summer meals component help communities efficiently use resources and ensure that youth who are most at risk have access to summer supports that help them thrive year-round.

Summer opportunity gaps are a problem we can solve. We ask the committee to pass the Summer Meals and Learning Act and help communities bring targeted, effective literacy and nutrition programming to schools and students most in need. Should you have questions or thoughts, please direct them to: Rachel Gwaltney, VP of Policy & Research, National Summer Learning Association, 410-856-1370 or rgwaltney@summerlearning.org. W



Indiana Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs
Indiana United Ways
Iowa Afterschool Alliance
Kansas Enrichment Network
Maryland Out of School Time Network
Missouri AfterSchool Network
Montana Afterschool Alliance
New Mexico Out of School Time Network
New York State Network for Youth Success
School's Out Washington
TN Afterschool Network
TXPOST
United Ways of Tennessee
Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time (VPOST)

From Cradle to College Foundation, Palmetto, FL
Oak Park Education Foundation, Oak Park, IL
Safe Harbor, Michigan City
The Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, Palmetto Florida
United Way of North Central Florida, Gainesville, Florida