

## **Support for the Family Friendly Schools Act**

*“The Family Friendly Schools Act would create 500 schools that would better align the school day with the work day so working parents know that while they are at work, their kids are safe.*

*“By investing in before, and after school programming, summer enrichment and 21st Century Community Learning Centers, this legislation addresses a chronic and long-neglected problem: too many working parents can’t access affordable care for their kids during the workday. After a decade of disinvestment in public education, more than half of public elementary schools lack the funding to meet kids and families where they are, and offer care beyond traditional school hours. Roughly one million mothers of elementary school children cut their hours at work because of a lack of affordable child care.*

*“This bill would enable school districts and communities to find solutions that work for them, and would make sure teachers and paraprofessionals aren’t filling in the gaps without respect and fair compensation.”*

**- Randi Weingarten, President, American Federation of Teachers**

*“The misalignment between school and work schedules puts working families through unnecessary financial stress – a burden we know is disproportionately shouldered by Black and Latinx families and families with low incomes. Senator Harris’ proposal would better support families in arranging child care and their work schedules, enabling more parents – largely mothers – to work, advancing educational equity and providing a needed boost to our economy.”*

**- Catherine Brown, Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress**

*“The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) is proud to support Senator’s Harris’ Family Friendly Schools Act. The disconnect between school and work schedules can cause unnecessary hardship for working parents and their children. One in six workers report that their schedules vary based on the needs of their employer— and workers in low-wage jobs are disproportionately represented among those with unpredictable schedules.*

*“Given the struggle that many families face when trying to find high-quality, affordable child care, aligning the school day with the work day and expanding resources for afterschool and summer care and learning programs is a positive initial step towards improving job stability, child well-being, and economic security for families across the country. We applaud Senator Harris for introducing this innovative legislation.”*

**- Olivia Golden, Executive Director, Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)**

*“Aligning school and work schedules and expanding summer learning opportunities in the communities that need them most is exactly the kind of equity measure our policymakers should be advancing.”*

*“Community leaders in IEL networks around the country want their representatives to enact innovative policies that work for students, families, and educators—and that’s exactly what the Family Friendly Schools Act does. IEL is proud to lend its support to this important legislation.”*

**- Johan E. Uvin, President, Institute for Educational Leadership**

*“Inconsistent schedules and school days that end at 3:00 are a huge challenge for all working parents, especially those with unpredictable schedules. The Family Friendly Schools Act is a welcome step in the right direction that would make it easier for hundreds of thousands of working families to support their children’s education.”*

**- Tim Daly, Founding Partner, EdNavigator**

*“Summer has a high return on investment,”*

*“When children and working families have access to high-quality programs in the summertime, we all benefit from greater workplace productivity, safer communities, and children who go back to school in the fall ready and excited to learn. Schools can’t do this work alone; 21CCLC helps schools partner with high-quality community-based programs to bring unique and fun learning and enrichment activities to youth most in need when school is not in session. With the additional 21CCLC funding that this legislation would provide, successful afterschool programs will be able to extend their good work into the critical summer months, and year-round.”*

**-Aaron Dworkin, CEO, National Summer Learning Association**

*“The Family Friendly Schools Act is an important step forward to helping our school systems meet the needs of both students and families.”*

*“Our nation's cities, towns and villages recognize the importance of education and the need for family and community involvement in our children’s education. Legislation that increases federal funding, improves scheduling and expands accessibility will drive forward a modern, equitable system for American families.”*

**- Karen Freeman-Wilson, President of National League of Cities and Mayor of Gary, Indiana**