

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE AFTER SCHOOL ACT TO STRENGTHEN AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS AIMED TO REDUCE CRIME AMONG AT-RISK YOUTH

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, March 19th, 2024, U.S. Senators Marsha Blackburn and Catherine Cortez Masto introduced the bipartisan “Advancing Frequent and Tailored Education to Rebuild Safe Communities and Help Orchestrate Opportunities and Learning” (AFTER SCHOOL) Act to help create and support after school programs focused on reducing violent crime among at-risk youth; and

WHEREAS, the gap of time after school and before parents return home is identified as prime time for violent behavior among youth, with the four hours following the end of the school day being typically the peak of violent crime; and

WHEREAS, early intervention is key to helping at-risk youth and studies show structured after-school programs have an impact on juvenile crime and also lead to improved academic and behavior and healthier habits; and

WHEREAS, a recent study found a 28 to 35 percent reduction of total arrests and a 45 to 50 percent reduction in violent crime by youth participating in specific after school programs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Memphis has witnessed a concerning rise in juvenile crimes and it is crucial to invest in early intervention programs to support at-risk youth and reduce crime rates among juveniles; and

WHEREAS, the AFTER SCHOOL Act aims to establish a grant program to support local communities in establishing, maintaining, and strengthening after school programs to reduce juvenile crime rates; and

WHEREAS, the AFTER SCHOOL Act proposes a grant program administered through the Department of Justice to provide funds for school districts with a juvenile offense rate exceeding 10%; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the importance of supporting legislation that addresses the root causes of juvenile crime and promotes positive youth development.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL that the Council hereby expresses its full support for the AFTER SCHOOL Act and urges Congress to pass this legislation to provide vital resources for local communities in addressing juvenile crime and fostering positive youth development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council encourages local stakeholders, including our local school district and community organizations, to actively engage in the grant application process outlined in the AFTER SCHOOL Act to access funds for after school programs that benefit our youth and contribute to safer communities.

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