Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	Res 0742-2007	**Version:**	A	**Name:**	US Congress, the Governor of the State of NY and the NYS Legislature to ensure the continued operation of 21st Century Community Learning Centers.
Type:	Resolution			**Status:**	Adopted
				In control:	Committee on Youth Services
On agenda:	3/14/2007				
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Title: Resolution calling upon the United States Congress, the Governor of the State of New York and the New York State Legislature to ensure the continued operation of 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

Sponsors: Lewis A. Fidler, Gale A. Brewer, James F. Gennaro, Sara M. Gonzalez, Michael C. Nelson, Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., Larry B. Seabrook, David I. Weprin, Melissa Mark-Viverito, Rosie Mendez, Inez E. Dickens, John C. Liu, Helen Sears, Thomas White, Jr.

Indexes:

Attachments: 1. Res. No. 742 - 3/14/07, 2. Committee Report, 3. Press Release, 4. Hearing Transcript, 5. Hearing Transcript - Stated Meeting 4/23/07

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
3/14/2007	*	City Council	Introduced by Council	
3/14/2007	*	City Council	Referred to Comm by Council	
4/18/2007	*	Committee on Youth Services	Hearing Held by Committee	
4/18/2007	*	Committee on Youth Services	Amendment Proposed by Comm	
4/18/2007	*	Committee on Youth Services	Amended by Committee	
4/18/2007	A	Committee on Youth Services	Approved by Committee	Pass
4/23/2007	A	City Council	Approved, by Council	Pass

Res. No. 742-A

Resolution calling upon the United States Congress, the Governor of the State of New York and the New York State Legislature to ensure the continued operation of 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

By Council Members Fidler, Brewer, Gennaro, Gonzalez, Nelson, Recchia Jr., Seabrook, Weprin, Mark-Viverito, Mendez, Dickens, Liu, Sears and White Jr.

Whereas, Two hundred and seven 21st Century Community Learning Centers ("Centers") throughout New York State, 60 percent of which are located in New York City, are in jeopardy of being shut down in June 2007 due to a funding shortage; and

Whereas, These after-school Centers provide valuable academic support and enrichment opportunities

for the children of New York at high-poverty and low-performing schools; and

Whereas, These Centers help to improve State literacy and education levels by successfully helping many students to meet State and local standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and math; and

Whereas, Working parents of approximately 34,000 children in the State have come to depend on the Centers, which operate every day from 3 to 6 pm; and

Whereas, The 21st Century Community Learning Centers Initiative is the only federal funding source dedicated exclusively to after-school programs; and

Whereas, While the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act ("Act") includes an annual schedule of authorized amounts to be appropriated to the Centers, each year Congress has consistently appropriated less funding than such authorized amounts; and

Whereas, The total funding for the nation's Centers appropriated by Congress for fiscal year 2007 was approximately $981 million, which is not even half of the $2.5 billion authorized for appropriation under the Act; and

Whereas, Pursuant to the Act, the New York State Education Department ("SED") is charged with the responsibility of distributing federal funds to New York State Centers; and

Whereas, Pursuant to the Act, each fiscal year a State must reserve not less than 95 percent of the amount allotted to the State for awards to eligible Center grantees; and

Whereas, In February of 2007, the SED announced that due to a shortage of funds there would be no request for proposals issued, as was expected this year, thereby leaving 207 operational Centers State-wide without the opportunity to apply for continued funding; and

Whereas, The current funding crisis appears to be a consequence of inadequate federal funding, which has decreased from approximately $98.9 million for the State in 2004 to approximately $90 million in 2006, as well as SED's management of such funds; and

Whereas, The United States Congress should provide adequate funds to enable these Centers to fulfill

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their mandate under the Act to provide students with opportunities for academic enrichment and other programs that complement the regular academic program; and

Whereas, If the Centers are not funded beyond June of 2007, approximately 34,000 children in 207 Centers in the State will lose vital after-school programs, 20,000 of whom are in New York City; and

Whereas, Pursuant to the State budget passed on April 1, 2007, the Centers will receive $7.5 million in aid, which is less than a quarter of the $31 million estimated as necessary to keep Centers open for one year; and

Whereas, During a time when the State budget surplus is approximately $1.5 billion, a possible solution would be to amend the State budget to provide a one-year extension of State funds for a total amount of $31 million in State aid, which would give the Centers time to secure additional necessary funds while continuing program operation; and

Whereas, The Governor of the State of New York should do all that is within his power to ensure that these valuable Centers, which help working parents throughout the State and enrich the lives and academic performance of 34,000 children, will continue to remain open; and

Whereas, The SED should ensure that funding for these important Centers is carefully managed so that threats of Center shutdowns do not occur in the future; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the United States Congress, the Governor of the State of New York and the New York State Legislature to ensure the continued operation of 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

EC
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