COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, quality afterschool programs and opportunities provide safe, challenging, and engaging learning experiences that help children develop social, emotional, physical, and academic skills; and

WHEREAS, afterschool programs provide invaluable support to working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth has provided significant leadership in community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children become successful adults; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is committed to investing in the health and safety of all young people by providing expanded learning opportunities that will help close the achievement gap and prepare young people to compete in the global economy; and

WHEREAS, afterschool programs can engage students in programs that provide hands-on, real-world science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) projects to help build vital twenty-first century skills, cultivate an interest in STEM, and offer innovative ways for students to connect STEM to their lives and communities; and

WHEREAS, afterschool programs can provide holistic support of the whole child and their development of social and emotional competencies such as problem solving, critical thinking, and interpersonal skills.

THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim October 24, 2024, to be

LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL DAY

in recognition of the invaluable role afterschool programs have in providing quality education and supporting working families. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to support the efforts of afterschool programs in the development of our Commonwealth's children.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this fourth day of October two thousand twenty-four, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred forty-ninth.

Governor Josh Shapiro