

*State of Missouri*  
*Governor's Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of the State of Missouri stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they provide safe and engaging learning experiences that help children raise grades and MAP scores; prevent violence and reduce drug and nicotine use among youth; support Missouri's economy by increasing the at-work productivity of parents, knowing their children are in a safe and supportive space; develop a future-ready workforce by exposing youth to new career opportunities and building skills employers need, including teamwork, creative problem solving, and STEM skills; build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders, and adult volunteers in the lives of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among youth, families, and adults; and

**WHEREAS**, afterschool programs have risen to the moment to support youth in addressing the social and academic needs as they recover from the pandemic. Afterschool programs continue to provide innovative, hands-on opportunities for youth to reengage in their learning and connect with caring adults and peers in a safe and supportive environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Missouri has provided significant leadership in the area of 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**, Lights On Afterschool, the national celebration of afterschool programs held this year on October 20, 2022, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families, and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, nationwide, 25 million families report that they would enroll their child in an afterschool program if one were available; and

**WHEREAS**, many afterschool programs across the country are facing operating challenges so severe that they are forced to consider closing their doors and turn off their lights; and

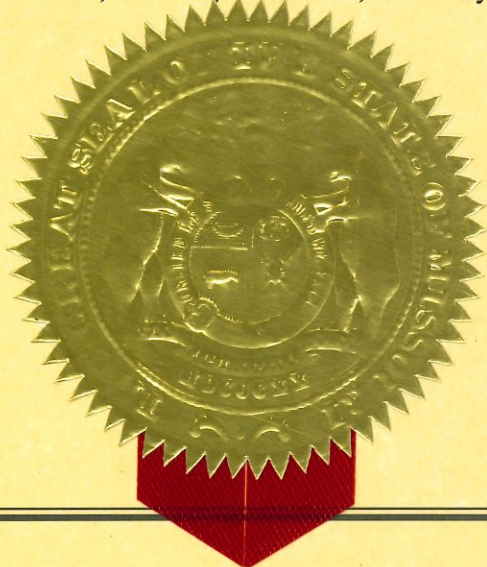
**WHEREAS**, the State of Missouri is committed to investing in the health and safety of all young people by providing expanded learning opportunities that help our children learn and grow, while helping them develop the skills essential for success in life and work.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim October 20, 2022, to be

**LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL DAY**

in Missouri, and encourage all Missourians to engage in innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of October, 2022.



*Michael L. Parson*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

  
SECRETARY OF STATE