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Senator Kennedy Releases *TIME Act*
National Center on Time & Learning Praises Senators' Support for Expanding Learning Time

Washington D.C. – The National Center on Time & Learning (NCTL) praises Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA), Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), and Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) for their support of legislation that would expand learning time in targeted public schools across the country. Kennedy, Chair of the Senate's Health Education Labor and Pension (HELP) Committee, today released the *Time for Innovation Matters in Education (TIME) Act*, which is modeled after the Massachusetts Expanded Learning Time Initiative. The *TIME Act* would provide federal funding to support states' initiatives to expand learning time in low-performing, high poverty schools in order to boost student performance, close academic achievement gaps, allow more time for teachers' professional development, and expand enrichment opportunities for our nation's most under-served students.

One of the unfortunate effects of the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) has been the narrowing of the curriculum in many schools. This proposal to expand learning time is about bringing the school community together to redesign the school day to allow more time for arts, music and other important enrichment activities, as well as rigorous academics. The result is a high-quality, well-rounded education that all children deserve. The *TIME Act* establishes a grant program to state education agencies and local school districts to support the school redesign and expansion process.

"We commend Senator Kennedy for his leadership on this important issue," said Jennifer Davis, NCTL president, which works with states to support expanding learning time initiatives. "While the expectations of our students and schools have risen, and the demands of our global economy are more competitive, the time allotted for students to reach higher standards has remained exactly the same."

Twenty-five years ago, the seminal report entitled *A Nation at Risk* called for significant improvements in five education areas: increasing graduation requirements, setting clear, achievable standards, improving teaching, increasing investments in education, and adding more school time. Since then, our nation has made important progress on most of these recommendations. However, a quarter century later, most American schools operate on the same schedule they used in 1983 when the report was issued—a schedule that was designed to meet the needs of farms and factories in the early 20th

century.

“It is time to rethink how our public schools are structured to better serve students who are academically behind,” said Chris Gabrieli, NCTL Chair and author of *Time to Learn*, a new book outlining expanded time initiatives at schools across the country. “The Senate proposal supports a comprehensive strategy to redesign schools’ entire educational program around the academic needs of students.”

In 2007, a similar bill, the *Expanded Learning Time Demonstration Act* (H.R. 3642), was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Representative Donald Payne (D-NJ) and now has numerous co-sponsors. The 2007 House draft of NCLB reauthorization also includes a similar proposal introduced by Representative George Miller (D-CA), Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor.

The National Center on Time & Learning is dedicated to expanding learning time to improve student achievement and enable a well-rounded education for all children. Through research, public policy, and technical assistance, we support national, state, and local initiatives that add significantly more school time for academic and enrichment opportunities to help all children meet the demands of the 21st century. The National Center on Time & Learning has partnered with the Center for American Progress Action Fund to support federal policies to expand learning time for high need students. For more information visit: www.timeandlearning.org. For more information on the Massachusetts Expanded Learning Time Initiative, please visit: www.mass2020.org.

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