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****OFFICIAL STATEMENT****



**NATIONAL SUMMER LEARNING ASSOCIATION ENDORSES
THE SUMMER LEARNING AND MEALS ACT OF 2018 (S.3307)**

BALTIMORE, MD, August 2, 2018 – The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) – the only national nonprofit exclusively focused on closing the achievement gap by increasing access to high-quality summer learning opportunities – fully endorses the Summer Learning and Meals Act of 2018 (S.3307), introduced by Oregon’s U.S. Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden.

Modeled after the successful Oregon Summer Learning Partnership, the new legislation, supporting state libraries, will create a new Federal grant program to allow schools that already serve free summer meals to keep their libraries open for student use during the summer months.

“Schools are the bedrock of every community and this new legislation ensures that the combination of meals and books will expand safe and enriching options that help children thrive during the summer,” said Matthew Boulay PhD, NSLA Founder and CEO.

The summer months present a classic case of the summer slide, a well-documented phenomenon where kids can lose up to three months of progress in reading and math skills learned during the previous school year. These losses add up, particularly for low income students, and can leave vulnerable students treading water or falling behind their higher income peers.

Research also confirms that many kinds of informal or high-quality formal enrichment opportunities can help students maintain or even increase their academic skills over the summer months, especially in reading. This legislation represents a major win in NSLA’s vision to keep all kids learning, safe and healthy every summer. Read official press release [here](#).

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About the National Summer Learning Association

The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) is the only national nonprofit exclusively focused on closing the achievement gap by increasing access to high-quality summer learning opportunities. NSLA recognizes and disseminates what works in summer learning, develops and delivers community capacity building offerings and convenes and empowers key actors to embrace summer learning as a solution for equity and excellence in education. For more information, visit www.summerlearning.org.