WHEREAS, quality afterschool programs and opportunities provide safe and engaging learning experiences that help children realize their full potential; support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive when they are out of their classrooms; 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 engage families, schools and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, afterschool programs have risen to the moment to support youth, and are critical in helping youth recover from this challenging time and address their academic, social, and emotional needs; and

WHEREAS, afterschool programs provide engaging, hands-on learning and opportunities to connect with caring adults and peers and during the pandemic, as well as providing remote learning support, virtual programming, care for children of essential workers, meal support, wellness check-ins, and more; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Mexico 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, nearly 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 turning off their lights; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico Out of School Time Network 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, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim October 20, 2022 as:

“Lights on Afterschool Day”

throughout the state of New Mexico.

Attest:

Maggie Toulouse Oliver
Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this 31st day of August 2022.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Mexico.

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor