

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_,

As the Executive Director/ Board Member of name of Mentoring Partnership in city/state, I write to ask you to become a co-sponsor of S. 3200 the Mentoring For All Act of 2008.

This bipartisan legislation would create a competitive grant fund of \$50 million to strengthen and grow mentoring infrastructure—known as Mentoring Partnerships—across the country and provide additional support and funding to direct service mentoring organizations.

Mentoring Partnerships help ensure that thousands of local mentoring programs can bring these benefits of mentoring to even more children. This includes providing training and technical assistance, recruiting mentors, and advancing research to mentoring programs—leading to more programs, stronger programs, and more children in mentoring relationships.

The opportunity to create this competitive grant fund would benefit us directly by: Describe how this new opportunity for funding would help you to expand and support your Partnership. Be as specific as possible.

Specifically, this bill would create a \$40 million competitive grant fund for existing state or local Mentoring Partnerships. These Mentoring Partnerships would then sub-grant 80% of the funds to local mentoring programs and use the remaining 20% to carry out state-wide activities such as training and technical assistance, recruitment campaigns, and more.

The remaining \$10 million authorized by the bill would be used to establish new Mentoring Partnerships and to focus on national-level research, evaluation, and training.

As you may know, mentoring is a critical element in a child's social, cognitive and emotional development. It plays a key role in improving the learning environment for a young person: mentored youth have better attendance and are more connected to their school, schoolwork, and teachers. Young people with mentors perform better in school and are more likely to graduate and go on to higher education.

An investment in Mentoring Partnerships will be multiplied many times over, and can help ensure that mentoring programs across the country have the resources need to change America by connecting kids with the power of mentoring. I urge you to show your support for mentoring by co-sponsoring S. 3200. With your help, we can strengthen and grow mentoring infrastructure in our state and across the country.

Thank you for your consideration.