

Talking Points for Mentoring Partnerships

Phone calls to Senate offices are also a great way to reach out to Senators. Here are some tips on getting started:

When you first call, introduce yourself and ask for the Education Legislative Assistant. This is usually the person who will handle legislation related to mentoring (if there is a staff member you have a good prior relationship with feel free to reach out to that person).

Staff are busy, so you may be asked to leave a message. In that case, speak clearly explaining that you are calling regarding S. 3200, the Mentoring For All Act of 2008, and explain the purpose of your call. Don't forget to leave your name and number and ask the staff member to call you back!

The telephone conversation

When you are able to connect, here are a couple of key talking points to keep in mind:

- Remember to say where you are from. Be as specific as you can. Members (and staff) are always most interested in hearing from their constituents. Providing this connection yourself will be valuable, because it instantly will make them interested in hearing what you have to say.
- “As the Executive Director/ Board Member of name of Mentoring Partnership in city/state, I am calling to ask you to become a co-sponsor of S. 3200, the Mentoring For All Act of 2008.”

Then, provide details about the bill:

- 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.
- 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.

In closing, offer your phone number/email address in case the staff member wishes to follow up with you on this issue.

Here are some key things to know about the bill. There probably won't be time to get into all of this, but they are good facts to know if asked:

- Create a **\$40 million competitive grant fund for existing state or local Mentoring Partnerships.**
 - Mentoring Partnerships receiving a grant would use 20% of funds to carry out activities to grow and strengthen the availability of mentoring throughout their service area, including training and technical assistance, recruitment campaigns, and more.
 - Mentoring Partnerships receiving a grant would sub-grant the remaining 80% of the funds to local mentoring programs to support all components of a successful mentoring program

- (including recruitment, training, screening, matching and ongoing monitoring). Partnerships could focus the grants to best meet the unique needs of their state or locality.
- Create a **\$7.5 million competitive grant fund to establish new Mentoring Partnerships** in states where they currently do not exist.
 - Provide \$2.5 million for **national-level research, evaluation, and training** and support for grantees.

Thanks again for YOUR efforts!