

# MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership

## Legislative Platform - 2018



**Support Investment in Quality Youth Mentoring** by supporting a minimum of \$100 million in FY19.

- **The Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Committees** fund the Youth Mentoring Grant managed by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention at the Department of Justice. The Grant is a critical support for young people who are at-risk of entering the juvenile justice system and has assisted hundreds of thousands of young people in achieving positive academic and professional outcomes.

**Support Investment in National Service and Out-of-School Time** by robustly funding the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers.

- The **Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Committee** is responsible for funding national service programs such as **AmeriCorps VISTA** and **Senior Corps** at CNCS. These programs provide critical support and capacity building opportunities to hundreds of mentoring and youth-development organizations across the country.
- The **Labor, HHS, Ed** appropriations committee also funds the before- and after-school program, **21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers** at the Department of Education, supporting mentoring and youth-development programs serving students outside-of-school time. We call for \$1.3 billion in FY19.

**Co-sponsor the Foster Youth Mentoring Act (H.R. 2952)** which provides support for mentoring programs that serve youth in the foster care system.

- The Foster Youth Mentoring Act creates grants to establish or expand mentoring programs that serve foster youth. The bill seeks to fill a gap to provide foster youth with access to social capital and resources to support their emotional, academic and career development.

**House Sponsor: Karen Bass (CA-37):**

Heather Zenone, [heather.zenone@mail.house.gov](mailto:heather.zenone@mail.house.gov) or 5-7084 (Bass)

**Co-sponsor the Mentoring to Succeed Act (S. 1658):** Crafted to help reduce violence in communities across the country, the bill establishes a grant program to assist school districts, local governments and community-based organizations to establish, expand or support quality mentoring programs for at-risk students. The grant emphasizes trauma-informed care and interventions, and establishes goals of improving college access and attainment as well as workforce development and training.

**Senate sponsors: Dick Durbin (IL) and Tammy Duckworth (IL):**

Brad Middleton, [Brad.Middleton@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Brad.Middleton@durbin.senate.gov) or 4-2152

Josie Villanueva, [Josie.Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie.Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov) or 4-2854

**Co-sponsor the Chronic Absenteeism Reduction Act (H.R. 1864):** Six million students were chronically absent, missing 15 or more school days, during the 2013-14 school year. According to recent studies, chronic absenteeism can predict a student's academic progress as effectively as test scores. The Chronic Absenteeism Reduction Act would establish mentoring programs pairing mentors with students who are chronically absent and provide them with the necessary support systems to achieve success.

**House sponsors: Tim Ryan (OH-13) and Jaime Herrera Beutler (WA-03):**

Anne Sokolov, [Anne.Sokolov@mail.house.gov](mailto:Anne.Sokolov@mail.house.gov) or 5-5261 (Ryan)

Anna Breen, [anna.breen@mail.house.gov](mailto:anna.breen@mail.house.gov) or 5-3536 (Herrera Beutler)

**Co-sponsor the Transition-to-Success Mentoring Act (H.R. 647)** to establish a mentoring program for at-risk students transitioning from middle to high school.

- The Transition-to-Success Mentoring Act focuses on supporting the individual needs of at-risk students by pairing them with a trained and caring adult mentor. Mentors begin working with students during the critical transition period between middle and high school and establish a plan to succeed in high school and beyond.

**House sponsor: André Carson (IN-07):**

Charlie Arnowitz, [Charlie.Arnowitz@mail.house.gov](mailto:Charlie.Arnowitz@mail.house.gov) or 5-4011 (Carson)

**Approve final passage of the bipartisan Child Protection Improvements Act (CPIA) (H.R. 695/S. 705)** which provides universal access to FBI fingerprint background checks for organizations serving vulnerable populations.

- CPIA would provide interested organizations serving vulnerable populations (youth, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities) access to FBI fingerprint background checks for screening potential staff and volunteers. It does not mandate the use of these checks and carries no taxpayer expense.
- MENTOR recommends FBI fingerprint checks be included as part of a comprehensive screening process in mentoring relationships where the mentor and mentee are often unsupervised. Comprehensive screenings allow for informed conversation between these organizations and their applicants. An uncovered record does not necessarily mean they cannot volunteer.

**House Sponsors: Adam Schiff (CA-28) and Mike Bishop (MI-08)**

**Senate Sponsors: Orrin Hatch (UT) and Al Franken (MN)**

**Signed into law March 23, 2018**

### **Bill Concepts (contact MENTOR with questions or interest)**

**Mentoring young people with disabilities:** Youth with disabilities often face barriers in lower expectations, fewer role models, and limited access to extracurricular activities and work experience; navigating the transition from school to post-secondary education and job placement can be especially challenging. Mentors can provide a critical support to these young people by enabling them to explore educational opportunities, social networks, and career pathways.

**Mentoring Commercially Sex Trafficked Youth:** The DOJ estimates the average age of entry into the commercial sex industry is 12-14 years old in the U.S. A study of girls who were commercially sex trafficked found that two of their most pressing needs were assistance in escape and mentoring or support from someone they could trust. This proposed bill would provide mentoring support to organizations that serve this population and provide them with the properly trained caring adults they deserve.

**Youth unemployment, mentoring and infrastructure:** Approximately 5.5 million youth (ages 16-24) are disconnected from school or work. These young people are looking for opportunities to contribute to the private and public sector workforce in their communities. Mentoring, on the job training, and apprenticeships can support their transition into the workforce while offering skills that provide a pathway to a career.

## **Join the Congressional Mentoring Caucus**

To join the Caucus, House and Senate offices may contact:  
Armita Pedramrazi [armita.pedramrazi@mail.house.gov](mailto:armita.pedramrazi@mail.house.gov) or 5-2040



Contact MENTOR: Abbie Evans ([aevans@mentoring.org](mailto:aevans@mentoring.org)) and Adriane Alicea ([aalicea@mentoring.org](mailto:aalicea@mentoring.org))

