

Capitol Hill Day

Part of the 2019 National Mentoring Summit



Support Investment in Quality Youth Mentoring by supporting \$120 million for the Youth Mentoring Program grant at the Department of Justice in FY20.

- The Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Committees fund the Youth Mentoring Program managed by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) at the Department of Justice (DOJ). The competitive 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. We request \$120 million in funding for the Youth Mentoring Grant in FY20.

Support the Transition to Success Mentoring Act 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 or 5-4011

We are seeking a Senate sponsor – please contact MENTOR with interest.

Support the Foster Youth Mentoring Act to establish support for mentoring programs that serve youth in the foster care system.

- The Foster Youth Mentoring Act provides grants to establish or expand mentoring programs that serve foster youth. The bill seeks to fill a gap by providing foster youth with social capital, resources, and the support they need to develop positive relationships and connections.

House Sponsor:

Karen Bass (CA-37): Heather Zenone, heather.zenone@mail.house.gov or 5-7084

We are seeking a Senate sponsor – please contact MENTOR with interest.

Support the Mentoring to Succeed Act to establish a grant to assist school districts, local governments, and community-based organizations to expand quality mentoring programs for at-risk students.

- The Mentoring to Succeed Act was crafted to help reduce violence in communities across the country and expand 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 Sponsor:

Dick Durbin (IL): Brad Middleton, Brad_Middleton@durbin.senate.gov or 4-2152

We are seeking a House sponsor – please contact MENTOR with interest.

Join the Congressional Youth Mentoring Caucus to support the important work that youth mentoring programs across the nation lead every day.

- Founded in 2002, the bipartisan Congressional Youth Mentoring Caucus hosts briefings, events, and plans to introduce bipartisan legislation as a Caucus related to youth mentoring. It also serves as a forum for members of Congress to discuss strategies and policies to improve the quality of mentoring and the quantity of volunteer mentors.
- In the 116th Congress, The Congressional Youth Mentoring Caucus plans to host briefings on supporting rural mentoring programs, college access and persistence, mentoring to support youth ageing out of foster care, how federal funds support mentoring programs, and briefings on issues relevant to specific states and regions.

To join the Congressional Youth Mentoring Caucus contact:

Susan Davis (CA-53): Brandon Mendoza, Brandon.Mendoza@mail.house.gov or 5-2040

Bill Concepts

If you have an idea for a bill or questions about how existing legislation could better support opportunities for quality youth mentoring please contact MENTOR.

Mentoring and College Access and Persistence: Mentoring is an important support strategy for students who are exploring plans to attend college or are currently enrolled. First-generation students, students from low-income families and underrepresented groups benefit from the academic, and social emotional support that mentors can provide as they navigate higher education. Research also demonstrates that mentoring can provide students with information and preparation about the admissions process and can help high school students achieve their academic goals towards college.

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.

Mentoring and Inclusion for 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 youth survivors of commercial sexual exploitation: 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.



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

