

MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership

Legislative Platform - 2019



Support Investment in Quality Youth Mentoring by supporting a minimum of \$120 million in FY20.

- **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 21st 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, **21st 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 FY20.

Co-sponsor the Foster Youth Mentoring Act (H.R. 3061) 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) and Don Bacon (NE-02):

Heather Zenone, heather.zenone@mail.house.gov or 5-7084 (Bass)
Rachel Pearce, Rachel.pearce@mail.house.gov or 4-4155 (Bacon)

Co-sponsor the Mentoring to Succeed Act: 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

Co-sponsor the Chronic Absenteeism Reduction Act: 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 school-based 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):

Lauren Harris, Lauren.harris@mail.house.gov or 5-5261 (Ryan)
Anna Breen, anna.breen@mail.house.gov or 5-3536 (Herrera Beutler)

Co-sponsor the Transition-to-Success Mentoring Act (H.R. 804) 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):

Ryan Shay, Ryan.Shay@mail.house.gov or 5-4011 (Carson)

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.

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 Youth Mentoring Caucus

To join the Caucus, House and Senate offices may contact:
Brandon Mendoza Brandon.mendoza@mail.house.gov or 5-2040



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

