



Town Hall Sample Questions and Tips

Town Halls are a great opportunity to ask your Members of Congress about their support for mentoring and youth development. You can email AAlicea@mentoring.org if you are interested in finding out if a congressional town hall is taking place in your community. Below are some sample questions for you to use or get ideas for formulating your own.

- Youth mentoring plays an important role in our community providing young people with support in academic achievement, workforce development and personal growth. I'd like to see Congress protect federal funding that supports youth mentoring through robustly funding the Youth Mentoring Grant housed at the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), can you commit to this?
- **[NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION]** serves 50 young people in our community and our mission is to close the mentoring gap for young people in our city. We have mentors from across the city who help support young people academically and personally. We'd like for you to come out and meet with some of our matches so they can tell you firsthand about their experiences. Would you be interested in visiting with us?
- Foster youth are an especially vulnerable but resilient population who benefit from the presence of a consistent caring adult in their lives. In June, Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA) and Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE) introduced H.R. 3061, the Foster Youth Mentoring Act to ensure that foster youth have the supportive relationships and access to other critical services they need to thrive. Would you co-sponsor this legislation?
- Mentoring is a critical component of supporting first-generation college students as they navigate the higher education system. Students must be prioritized by identifying and meeting their social-emotional and academic needs. An integral part of these supports is providing them with the mentoring relationships they need to access resources and social capital that can help them thrive. Congress is working on reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, can you commit to ensuring that mentoring and relationships are prioritized and funded?
- As you may know, September is Attendance Awareness Month, an important time to bring attention to addressing the root causes of chronic absence in school. Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH) and Rep. Jaime Herrera-Beutler (R-WA) are introducing the Chronic Absenteeism Reduction Act to provide young people with supportive mentoring relationships and other critical services to improve attendance. Would you co-sponsor this legislation?

During a Town Hall, you may ask questions or tell a story about mentoring in your community, just remember a few things:

- Try to find a tangible ask for the Member of Congress so they can respond to your question.
- Frame your question in a courteous way so that your working relationship with the office stays positive.
- Prepare to follow-up with their staff to ensure that have the relevant information.
- Do not be disappointed if they don't give an exact answer to your question, this is why follow-up visits and messages are so important!