

May 25, 2021

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of over 400,000 youth in foster care in the United States, we, the undersigned, urge you to support the bipartisan *Foster Youth Mentoring Act of 2021* (H.R. 3083).

Studies have proven that mentoring services for foster youth are effective intervention strategies that have a positive impact on a wide range of factors. A 2017 research synthesis of over 30 research studies on mentoring youth in foster care concluded that mentoring services had a positive impact on mental health, educational functioning and attainment, peer relationships, placement outcomes, and life satisfaction. Additional research has demonstrated that mentoring at the time of emancipation can have a positive impact on several transition-related outcomes, such as employment, housing stability, and avoidance of involvement with a criminal justice system.

The *Foster Youth Mentoring Act of 2021* (H.R. 3083) would establish a competitive grant through the Department of Health and Human Services to enhance and expand mentoring programs to support additional youth with experience in foster care. Funds can be used for critical mentor recruitment, screening, and training to ensure long-term and quality mentor-mentee relationships, in addition to the incorporation of peer-to-peer experiences and youth voice in program development.

A recent study funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) found that mentoring programs potentially provide a benefit of three times the public expenditure, for every day in jail that program participants avoid. This evidence-based innovative practice has proven outcomes that represent potentially substantial cost savings for the child welfare system, if implemented at scale.

This bipartisan bill, supported by the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth and Congressional Youth Mentoring Caucus, has the potential to meaningfully impact some of our country's most vulnerable young people. As a youth-serving organization, I urge you to support it. Thank you for your consideration of this critical request.

Sincerely,
America's Promise Alliance
BEST Kids, Inc. – Washington, DC
Better Youth, Inc. – Los Angeles, CA
Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of California
Big Brothers Big Sisters Lincoln
Big Brothers Big Sisters of America
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Nebraska
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ventura County, Inc.
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Sacramento Area
Big Pals-Little Pals of Greater Columbus
Boys Town
CASA of Los Angeles
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Advocacy Institute
Children's Defense Fund

Children's Home & Aid – Chicago, IL
College Mentors for Kids
Communities in Schools
Deaconess, United Methodist Church – Cedartown, GA
Elite Eagles, Inc. – Augusta, GA
Eluna
Encore.org
Family Centered Treatment Foundation
Family Focused Treatment Association
First Focus Campaign for Children
Friends of the Children – Los Angeles
Foster America
Foster Care Alumni of America
Foster Care Counts – Los Angeles, CA
FosterClub
Fostering Change Network Foundation
Friends of the Children
Girls, Inc.
Hillsides – Pasadena, CA
Imagine LA
iMentor
Improve Your Tomorrow, Inc. – Sacramento, CA
Iowa MENTOR
John Burton Advocates for Youth – San Francisco, CA
Julia's Learning Foundation – Fontana, CA
Juma Ventures
Juvenile Law Center
LGBTQ Center Orange County
Maryland Essentials for Childhood
Maryland State Council on Child Abuse & Neglect
Massachusetts Mentoring Partnership
MENTOR California
MENTOR Colorado
MENTOR Independence Region
MENTOR Minnesota
MENTOR National
MENTOR Nebraska
MENTOR North Carolina
MENTOR Rhode Island: the RI Mentoring Partnership, Inc.
MENTOR Virginia
MENTOR Washington
National Alliance of Faith and Justice
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of Counsel for Children
National Association of Police Athletic/Activities Leagues, Inc.
National Crittenton
National Foster Youth Institute
National Recreation and Park Association

Partners for Our Children, University of Washington, School of Social Work
Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services – Saint Louis, MO
Release, Inc. – Omaha, NE
Search Institute
Spark Program
StandUp for Kids – Orange County
Summer Search
The Governor's Prevention Partnership - Connecticut
The Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania
Think of Us
Together We Rise
Youth Emergency Services – Omaha, NE
Youth Jobs Connect
Youth Villages
100 Black Men of Omaha, Inc.
3Fold Communications – Sacramento, CA