MENTOR
Legislative Platform - 2022

PROTECT AND GROW INVESTMENT IN RELATIONSHIP-CENTERED SUPPORTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

➢ Youth Mentoring Program grant funded via the Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bills is managed by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention at the DOJ. 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 personal, academic and professional outcomes. We call for $130 million in FY23.

➢ Robust investments in education are critical to supporting the academic, social, emotional, and healthy mental and physical development of young people. MENTOR supports investment in the following programs funded via the Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bills:
  - 21st Century Community Learning Centers. We call for a $500 million increase in FY23.
  - Full-Service Community Schools program. We call for $468 million in FY23.
  - Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants. We call for $2 billion in FY23.

➢ Shrinking the “Homework Gap” is critical to ensuring young people have reliable and equitable access to Internet and other technological needs for effective learning and maintaining connections in school and at home. The FCC’s E-rate program funded via the Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bills effectively expand connectivity in schools and libraries serving communities across the country.

➢ National Service programs such as VISTA and Senior Corps at AmeriCorps (formally CNCS) provide critical support and capacity-building opportunities to hundreds of mentoring and youth-development organizations across the country. We call for $1.34 billion for AmeriCorps in FY23.

SUPPORT LEGISLATION ELEVATING QUALITY MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

Co-sponsor the Foster Youth Mentoring Act (H.R. 3083) 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):
Camille Loya, camille.loya@mail.house.gov or 5-7084 (Bass)
Tanisha Lewis, tanisha.lewis@mail.house.gov or 5-4155 (Bacon)

Co-sponsor the Transition to Success Mentoring Act (H.R. 6481) would establish a grant program through the Department of Education to support partnerships between local education agencies (LEA’s) and community and school-based mentoring programs targeted at helping youth facing risk of dropping out before graduation. Under this legislation, participating students would develop and execute a plan for success in high school and beyond, and meet regularly with a school faculty member or volunteer mentor from the community known as a “Success Coach.”

House sponsor: André Carson (IN-07):
Diala Qasem, diala.qasem@mail.house.gov 5-5261 (Carson)
ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION SUPPORTED BY MENTOR

SCHOOL-RELATED LEGISLATION
The Chronic Absenteeism Reduction in Every Schools Act (To Be Introduced) sponsored by Representatives Tim Ryan (OH-13) and Jaime Herrera Beutler (WA-03) would establish school-based programs that pair mentors with students who are chronically absent and provide them with the necessary support systems to achieve success. The bill’s comprehensive approach to reducing chronic absenteeism uses real-time data collection on attendance, strategic integration of social services for tailored interventions and quality mentoring relationships to support students.

The Full-Service Community Schools Empower Students to Succeed, included in the FY22 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations subcommittee bill, was introduced by Rep. Steny Hoyer (MD). Full-service community schools work to ensure students come to school ready to learn and succeed by locating educational and social service programs in one place, facilitated through partnerships with school districts and community organizations. They are especially critical for children attending high-poverty schools who face greater barriers to leaning.

The Mentoring to Succeed Act (S. 2198/H.R. 4076) introduced by Senator Dick Durbin (IL) and Rep. Janice Schakowsky (IL), would help reduce violence in communities and expand quality school-based mentoring programs for students facing the greatest risks. The grant emphasizes trauma-informed care and interventions and establishes goals of improving college access and attainment, as well as workforce development and career exploration.

YOUTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATION
H.R. 3342/S. 1696: The Youth Workforce Readiness Act sponsored by Representative Josh Harder (CA-10), Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-01), Senator Tina Smith (MN) and Senator Lindsay Graham (SC). This bipartisan legislation would establish a competitive grant at the DOL for eligible national, youth-serving out-of-school time organizations centered around four key pillars – essential-skills development, career exposure, employability and certification, work-based learning – and mentoring.

H.R. 3106/S. 1562: Creating Pathways for Youth Employment Act sponsored by Representative Robin Kelly (IL-02) and Senators Dick Durbin (IL) and Tammy Duckworth (IL) would make it easier for local governments and community organizations to apply directly for federal funding to create and expand summer and year-round employment programs for young people. The legislation would establish a five-year, $1.5 billion competitive grant program for youth summer employment and a five-year, $2 billion competitive grant program for youth year-round employment.

H.R. 2845/S. 1550: Helping to Encourage Real Opportunities (HERO) for At-Risk Youth Act sponsored by Representative Robin Kelly (IL-02) and Senators Dick Durbin (IL) and Tammy Duckworth (IL) would encourage the business community to become a partner in addressing youth unemployment by hiring at-risk youth that reside in communities with high rates of poverty by providing a tax credit of up to $2,400 to those business who hire and train youth 16-24 years old who are out of school and work, as well as those in or were part of the foster youth system.

To join the Caucus, House and Senate offices may contact:
Faith Wilcox
Representative Mary Gay Scanlon (PA)
Faith.Wilcox@mail.house.gov or 5-2040

Contact MENTOR: Caden Fabbi (cfabbi@mentoring.org) and Abbie Evans (aevans@mentoring.org)