

MENTOR's Capitol Hill Day

Part of the 2026 National Mentoring Summit



MENTOR

CAPITOL HILL DAY

MENTOR is honored to convene a diverse group of youth mentoring and development leaders – including program staff, volunteers, researchers, government and law enforcement partners, and young people themselves – to engage with Members of Congress and their staff. Together, we will elevate the proven value of quality, relationship-centered mentoring and youth support systems, and their role in strengthening outcomes for young people, families, and communities nationwide.

PROTECT INVESTMENT IN RELATIONSHIP-CENTERED SUPPORTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The bipartisan **Youth Mentoring Program**, administered by the DOJ's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), is the only mentoring-specific line item in the federal budget. Funded through the **Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS)** appropriations bill, the program supports competitive grants to effective, community-based mentoring organizations and funds the National Mentoring Resource Center, which provides free, evidence-based training and technical assistance to strengthen quality, effectiveness, and outcomes across the mentoring field nationwide.

We respectfully request \$130 million for the grant in FY27 and thank Congress for its continued bipartisan support for the Youth Mentoring Program in FY26.

THE FOSTER YOUTH MENTORING ACT - H.R. 4769

Rep. Don Bacon (NE-02) and Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon (PA-05)

We are seeking a Republican to co-lead in the Senate to maintain the bill's bipartisan leadership. Please contact MENTOR with questions or interest.

The bill seeks to provide youth in the foster care system with consistent, well-trained mentors by establishing a federal discretionary grant program for mentoring organizations serving foster youth. The program would support young people's emotional well-being, academic success, and career development, helping improve stability and long-term outcomes for a highly vulnerable population.

Lead contact(s):

Rep. Don Bacon (NE-02): Clayton Meyer, clayton.meyer@mail.house.gov

Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon (PA-05): Emily Kastenberg, emily.kastenberg@mail.house.gov

THE MENTORING TO SUCCEED ACT - H.R. 7943 / S. 1658

Sen. Richard Durbin (IL)

Rep. Jan Schakowsky (IL-09)

The bill would expand high-quality, school-based mentoring opportunities for youth in communities with high rates of violence. By prioritizing mentor training and program quality, the bill aims to improve educational attainment, workforce-relevant skills, and career exploration, supporting prevention, opportunity, and positive youth outcomes.

Lead contact(s):

Sen. Richard Durbin (IL): Amber Moore, amber_moore@durbin.senate.gov and Kaylee Mulgrew, Kaylee_mulgrew@durbin.senate.gov.

Rep. Jan Schakowsky (IL-09): Alexandra Patzakis, Alexadra.patzakis@mail.house.gov

THE TRANSITION TO SUCCESS MENTORING ACT – H.R. 6481 / S. 375

Sen. Cory Booker (NJ)

Rep. André Carson (IN-07)

The bill would establish a competitive grant program to support partnerships between schools and mentoring providers serving students at risk of dropping out. By focusing on the transition from middle school to high school and sustained support through graduation, the bill aims to improve academic achievement, persistence, and postsecondary readiness.

Lead contact(s):

Sen. Cory Booker (NJ): Mia Furtado, mia.furtado@booker.senate.gov

Rep. André Carson (IN-07): Diala Qassem, diala.qassem@mail.house.gov

JOIN THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH MENTORING CAUCUS

The bipartisan Congressional Youth Mentoring Caucus brings together Members of Congress committed to strengthening youth mentoring nationwide. The Caucus hosts briefings and events to educate Members and staff on emerging trends, evidence-based practices, and policy opportunities in the youth mentoring field. Through information sharing, network building, and leadership on legislation, the Caucus works to close the mentoring gap and build sustained, bipartisan congressional support for mentoring as a proven strategy to advance youth achievement and opportunity. Members are encouraged to join the Caucus to demonstrate their support for youth mentoring and help shape federal mentoring policy.

Lead contact(s):

Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon (PA-05): Emily Kastenber, emily.kastenber@mail.house.gov

SUPPORT NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

Bipartisan National Mentoring Month resolutions will be introduced in the House and Senate on Thursday, February 5, 2026. These resolutions recognize the positive impact of mentoring relationships on young people and communities nationwide and affirm Congress's commitment to supporting mentoring initiatives. Members are encouraged to lend their names as original cosponsors to demonstrate bipartisan support for mentoring during National Mentoring Month.

Lead contact(s):

Senators Mullin (OK) and Whitehouse (RI): Audrey Trussell, Audrey_trussell@mullin.senate.gov and Anna Beaulieu, anna_beaulieu@whitehouse.senate.gov

Representatives Bacon (NE-02) and Scanlon (PA-05): Clayton Meyer, clayton.meyer@mail.house.gov and Emily Kastenber, emily.kastenber@mail.house.gov



Questions? Contact Abbie Evans, Chief External Affairs Officer
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