

MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership

Legislative Platform - 2017



Co-sponsor the bipartisan Child Protection Improvements Act (CPIA) (H.R. 695/S. 705) which provides universal access to FBI fingerprint background checks for organizations serving vulnerable populations.

- CPIA would provide interested organizations serving vulnerable populations (youth, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities) access to FBI fingerprint background checks for screening potential staff and volunteers. It does not mandate the use of these checks and carries [no taxpayer expense](#).
- MENTOR recommends FBI fingerprint checks be included as part of a comprehensive screening process in mentoring relationships where the mentor and mentee are often unsupervised. Comprehensive screenings allow for informed conversation between these organizations and their applicants. An uncovered record does not necessarily mean they cannot volunteer.

House Sponsors: Adam Schiff (D, CA-28) and Mike Bishop (R, MI-08): PASSED HOUSE 5/22/17

Courtney Fogwell, courtney.fogwell@mail.house.gov or 5-4176 (Schiff)

Andrew Block, andrew.block@mail.house.gov or 5-4872 (Bishop)

Senate Sponsors: Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Al Franken (D-MN):

Ryan Leavitt, ryan_leavitt@judiciary-rep.senate.gov or 4-5251 (Hatch)

Nick Wunder, nick_wunder@judiciary-dem.senate.gov or 8-3177 (Franken)

Support Investment in Quality Youth Mentoring by supporting a minimum of \$90 million for the Youth Mentoring Grant at DOJ in FY18.

- The **Commerce, Justice, Science** appropriations committee funds the Youth Mentoring grant managed by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention at DOJ, supporting at-risk and high-risk youth. The grant was cut by 11% in the FY17 omnibus bill. House Appropriations recommend only \$75 million in their FY18 CJS bill and the Senate committee recommended \$80 million.

Co-sponsor the Foster Youth Mentoring Act (H.R. 2952) 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 social capital, resources, and the support they need to develop positive relationships and connections.

House Sponsor: Karen Bass (D, CA-37):

Vanisha DeJonghe, Vanisha.DeJonghe@mail.house.gov or 5-7084 (Bass)

Co-sponsor the Transition-to-Success Mentoring Act (H.R. 647) 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 (D, IN-07):

Charlie Arnowitz, Charlie.Arnowitz@mail.house.gov or 5-4011

Co-sponsor the Chronic Absenteeism Reduction Act (H.R. 1864): 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 often predict a student's academic progress as effectively as test scores. The Chronic Absenteeism Reduction Act would establish 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):

Stephen Kostyo, Stephen.Kostyo@mail.house.gov or 5-5261 (Ryan)

Courtney Webb, Courtney.Webb@mail.house.gov or 5-3536 (Herrera Beutler)

Co-sponsor the Mentoring to Succeed Act (S. 1658): crafted to help reduce violence in communities across the country, the bill establishes a grant program to assist school districts, local governments and community-based organizations to establish, expand or support 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 sponsors: Dick Durbin (IL) and Tammy Duckworth (IL):

Brad Middleton, Brad.Middleton@durbin.senate.gov or 4-2152

Bill Concepts (contact MENTOR with questions or interest)

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.

Tax credits for businesses hosting youth mentoring in the workplace: Companies across the country are marshalling their expertise, resources, and human capital to guide, and connect young people through mentoring in the workplace. Many businesses understand that mentoring is as essential to their own success as it is to guiding future generations through increasingly complex educational and employment pathways. Businesses interested in hosting youth mentoring programs in their offices could be supported by a tax credit.

Join the Congressional Mentoring Caucus

To join the Caucus, House and Senate offices may contact: Armita Pedramrazi

armita.pedramrazi@mail.house.gov or 5-2040



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

