

2017 Capitol Hill Day training webinar

#MENTORINGSUMMIT2017 | January 12, 2017



Table of Contents

- I. Goals and logistics
- II. Materials and how to prepare for Capitol Hill Day
- III. Recommended bills and issues to be covered during your meetings
- IV. Q & A – don't be shy!



Goals for successful meetings

- Strengthen or establish a relationship with Representatives and Senators – and their staff!
- Educate Members of Congress and staff about mentoring and the issues mentoring programs face.
- Encourage MOCs to support key policies supported by youth mentoring and youth development advocates.





In-person training: Jan. 31, 5:30 - 7

- Hosted at the Summit hotel (Renaissance Washington, DC Downtown)
- In-person training will cover all pertinent details and logistics
- Participants will sit by state to network and plan
- Materials and Capitol Hill Day t-shirts will be handed out
- Heavy appetizers and beverages offered

Agenda for Hill Day

- **Wednesday, February 1**

- 8 am Begin boarding buses at Renaissance hotel

- 9-9:45 Capitol Hill Day kick-off (CVC)
Group photo!
Light breakfast provided

- 10am – 4pm Congressional meetings

- 4-6 pm Welcome reception (Capitol Hill)





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|---|---|
| 1 U.S. Capitol Building | 8 Madison Building: Library of Congress |
| 2 Russell Senate Office Building | 9 Cannon House Office Building |
| 3 Dirksen Senate Office Building | 10 Longworth House Office Building |
| 4 Hart Senate Office Building | 11 Rayburn House Office Building |
| 5 U.S. Supreme Court | 12 Ford House Office Building |
| 6 Jefferson Building: Library of Congress | 13 U.S. Botanic Garden |
| 7 Adams Building: Library of Congress | 14 Capitol Visitor Center |

Union Station 

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U.S. Capitol Map

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Security on Capitol Hill

- Similar to security in airports you'll have to walk through metal detectors and have your bags searched at every entrance.
 - Be prepared to remove your coats and other outerwear
 - Sealed boxes and envelopes, weapons of any kind (including mace and pocket knives) are prohibited
 - Additionally, no cans, bottles, food or beverages are permitted in Capitol Visitors Center (reusable bottles must be empty)



Attire

- Business or business-casual attire is strongly recommended
 - All participants will receive a t-shirt that can be worn over business attire.
 - Wear comfortable shoes.
 - Wear layers to prepare for DC's unpredictable January weather.
 - Avoid jeans altogether and tops, pins or buttons with political affiliations, partisan positions and/or lewd language.

Why should I advocate?

- Youth mentoring needs passionate and knowledgeable advocates. That's you!
- Personal experiences and stories can make a concepts “real” to Members of Congress and their staff.



Okay, but why participate in Capitol Hill Day?

- Generally, in-person advocacy is the most effective type of advocacy.
 - It's personal and conversational
 - It can elicit a reaction, provide opportunities to discuss topics that are less compelling on paper or in a tweet
 - You can address misunderstandings and ensure clarity
 - You may get an immediate response to a request (“Yes, I’ll support that bill” or “Let me and my staff look into this and get back to you.”)





Capitol Hill Day materials

- Hill Day participants will receive 1 folder for each Congressional appointment scheduled – not 1 folder for each participant
- Folders will include:
 - Legislative leave-behind summary and a flier about MENTOR
 - Each folder will have an empty sleeve for you to fill
 - Participants will submit feedback forms for each meeting

Before coming to DC...

- Sharpen your message
- Know what you want to ask the legislator to do (co-sponsor a bill, visit your mentoring program, etc.). This is your goal.
- Gather facts, stories and local touch-points if possible.
- Plan your group strategy – very important!
 - Who will talk about what issues?
 - Who will be point of contact for the office?
- Print enough materials.

During your Hill meetings...

- Introduce yourself and the group, if applicable.
- Stay on topic. Engage in some chit-chat, but try not to waste too much of your time.
- Tell your story.
- Get a commitment when possible. Promise to follow-up.
- Allow time for questions.
- Leave behind your supporting materials and contact information.
- *Don't forget to take a picture!*





Capitol Hill life. Be flexible.

- Your meeting – especially if with MOC – may be held anywhere, even on the move! Go with it.
- Hill staff are often very young. Give them as much respect as you expect in return. They brief their bosses.
- Your meeting may be short. Most offices will try to extend time with you whenever possible.
- You may be interrupted. Hill offices are small, often noisy and busy.

Bills and issues

- **Support the Child Protection Improvements Act (CPIA)**

CPIA provides access to FBI fingerprint background checks to all youth-serving organizations wishing to use them for screening purposes.

- Provides universal, streamlined access to FBI fingerprint background checks (does not mandate their use)
- Carried no taxpayer expense and is bipartisan.

The Ask: co-sponsor H.R. TBD and S. TBD

Bills and issues

- **Increase investment in quality youth mentoring**

Congress must invest in quality mentoring efforts in order to help expand capacity and serve more young people.

- Currently, only 1 federal grant program funds mentoring exclusively (DOJ via OJJDP)
- Other agencies support this work: ED, Labor, DOD

The Ask: Support youth mentoring grant at OJJDP



Bills and issues

- **Support the Foster Youth Mentoring Act**

The bill provides grants to establish or expand mentoring programs for youth in the foster care system. The bill seeks to fill a gap to provide foster youth with the social capital, resources and support they need to develop positive relationships and connections.

- Recipients can establish or expand services for foster youth
- Recipients can train mentors on critical foster youth-related issues

The Ask: co-sponsor S. TBD and H.R. TBD

Bills and issues

- **Join the Congressional Mentoring Caucus**

The Caucus provides a forum for MOCs to work together to draw attention to the importance of mentoring and develop policy that will improve youth access to mentors.

- MOCs will host briefings and have the chance to introduce mentoring legislation together.
- Bipartisan, bicameral manner.

The Ask: join the Congressional Mentoring Caucus



Bills and issues on the horizon

- Chronic absenteeism and mentoring bill
- Mentoring children with disabilities
- Mentoring for commercially sex trafficked youth
- Opportunity youth mentoring bill
- Tax credits for workplace mentoring bill

Summit Welcoming Reception

Reception open to all Summit attendees from 4-6 p.m.

- Kennedy Caucus Room
 - 3rd floor of Russell Senate Office Building
 - Enter from Constitution Ave.
- Appetizers and drinks available
- Congressional staff and MOCs welcome to join you at reception (invitation will be included in Hill Day materials)



When the work is done...

Consider scheduling a Capitol tour during down time

<https://www.visitthecapitol.gov/plan-visit/book-tour-capitol>

- Do this prior to coming to DC
- Ask your Representative or Senator if they provide staff tours
- Make sure tour doesn't interfere with your appointments!

Questions?



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