



MENTOR

July 14, 2026

The Honorable Mark Kelly
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kelly,

On behalf of MENTOR, I am pleased to offer support for the Building Community in America Act.

As the national leader of the youth mentoring movement, MENTOR works alongside a national network of Affiliates and thousands of mentoring programs to ensure more young people have access to the trusted relationships they need to thrive. We know that strong mentoring relationships strengthen individuals, families, and communities – and that those relationships begin with adults who choose to serve.

The Building Community in America Act recognizes the important role volunteer service plays in addressing growing social isolation and strengthening civic life. We are especially encouraged by the bill's efforts to expand participation in community service by encouraging more men to volunteer in roles such as youth mentoring, coaching, workforce development, and other community-based activities. Across the country, mentoring programs continue to report significant demand for male mentors, and increasing the number of adults who step forward to serve will help more young people build the meaningful relationships that support their success.

MENTOR believes that strong relationships are essential to healthy communities. By encouraging more Americans to engage in volunteer service – from mentoring and coaching to workforce development, public safety, and conservation – this legislation will strengthen civic participation while expanding opportunities for people of all ages to contribute to the well-being of their communities.

Thank you for your leadership in this important legislation. We are proud to support the Building Community in America Act and look forward to working with you to strengthen mentoring and volunteerism across the country.

Sincerely,

Abbie Evans
Chief External Affairs Office
MENTOR