

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The American Institute for Boys and Men and the Male Educator Network & Policy Institute endorse legislation to bring more men into teaching, mentoring, and service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The American Institute for Boys and Men (AIBM), and the Male Educator Network & Policy Institute (MEN), today endorsed [Educators for America Act](#) and the [Building Community in America Act](#) introduced by Senator Mark Kelly of Arizona. The bill aims to expand recruitment into teacher residency and national service programs and creates more ways for Americans—including men, who are underrepresented in these roles—to serve their communities.

AIBM is backing the legislation because it responds to a gap the Institute's research has documented for years. Men make up only [23% of teachers](#) today, down from 33% in the early 1980s, and just over a quarter of AmeriCorps members. This shortage falls hardest on boys, who are more likely to grow up without a male role model—waiting longer for a mentor and rarely seeing a man at the front of the classroom.

The case for service runs in both directions. Among men who volunteer, [volunteering ranks](#) as one of the most meaningful activities in their lives and is linked to better mental health and stronger social connection. Legislation that helps bring more men into teaching, mentoring, and national service therefore does double duty—strengthening classrooms and communities while giving men a durable source of purpose at a moment when many have drifted from the institutions that once provided it.

"We need good men—mentors, leaders and role models—in our communities and in our classrooms. The best antidote to a bad man online is a good man in flesh and blood, in the lives of our boys. The declining share of men in K-12 teaching and in community organizations ought to be setting off alarm bells across the country. Sen. Kelly's bills represent a serious effort to address this problem, and are the first of their kind. It is easy to talk about the importance of male role models. These bills actually do something to promote them," [said AIBM President Richard V. Reeves](#) in response to this legislation.

Curtis Valentine, MEN President and AIBM fellow, added: "We can't build strong communities with struggling men. Fortunately we know how to fix this: more positive men in the lives of our boys. At a time when our boys need them the most, less and less men are volunteering. In our schools, the share of male educators has been consistently declining as males continue to fall further and further behind their female classmates. So Senator Kelly's bills are right on time. The bills also go hand in hand because service can be a pathway into teaching for so many men. We can fix what's wrong in our communities with what's right: men ready to serve."

This endorsement builds on AIBM and MEN's growing work on men in teaching and service, including supporting the California's Men's Service Challenge.

About AIBM

The [American Institute for Boys and Men](#) conducts non-partisan research on issues that affect the well-being of boys and men across the United States, and designs programs and policies to help them thrive.

About MEN

The [Male Educator Network & Policy Institute](#) is the first national organization dedicated solely to building a coalition, trusted community, and unifying voice for men in education. Through research, policy, and community-building, MEN equips individuals, organizations, and institutions with the tools needed to reverse the decades-long decline of men in the teaching profession.

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