

Oklahoma State Senate

KEVIN L. MATTHEWS

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*Assistant Democratic Floor Leader
Oklahoma Legislative Black Caucus Chair
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COMMITTEES:
General Government
Pensions
Transportation
Appropriations Subcommittee on
General Government & Transportation
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Health & Human Services

To whom it may concern:

Keith Reed and the Reed boxing program is one of the best character building programs I have been associated with. Keith is not only a Golden Glove champion coach, but acts as a father figure to most of the young people in his gym. I have supported this program for over a decade because of the positive results I have seen in the character and respect developed by the young people he coaches and mentors. Most of the youth in the Reed boxing program have come from disadvantaged or fatherless homes, and they are taught to not only act and train like champions, but they are also taught to have respect for themselves and others. It is rare to see young people that often have had disciplinary problems and have been heading in a negative direction, respond respectfully when spoken to, with a "yes sir" or "yes ma'am". After a short period of time, each trainee can be seen going through training drills with military precision.

Currently, there are few parks and recreation available for the youth in the neighborhoods most of his kids come from. This athletic and leadership program is a necessary outlet for aggressive youth who could be utilizing their energy in gangs and other illegal activities. My support for Coach Keith Reed comes from knowing his superior athletic training experience coupled with the many obstacles he has overcome in his life. He brings to his program, a unique ability to relate and teach these young people how to avoid the pitfalls that destroy the lives of so many young people today. I have two outstanding adult sons, one as a poet and teacher, and one as an investment broker, and we all have received training and advice on how to be courageous, humble in victory, and supportive to one another, as leaders and men, from coach Reed.

For these reasons I endorse and support Keith Reed and Reed's Boxing, and encourage you to do the same. Support for this program is an investment in future champions in sports and even more importantly, champions in life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin L. Matthews Sr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin L. Matthews Sr.
Oklahoma State Senator District 11