

HEP/CAMP National Internship Program Week 7
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This was a long week with lots of meetings. On Monday, Sam and I headed to Capitol Hill and started our day with meetings. I met with Jim Costa's in his office and it was a long meeting and I knew nothing of what was spoken. When I go into meetings, I tend to have a script on how I think they will go and it goes a completely different way.

I have rarely gone to Capitol Hill this summer, but after last week I had to get used to knowing my way around the three buildings because I will be there more often.

One of the CHCI interns saw me walking around the Longworth building and they were surprised because they never see me on Capitol Hill. I do find it a little weird going to Capitol Hill because I do not work there, yet.

On Wednesday, I relaxed most of my morning, I got ready for the R2L day with CHCI. R2L brings high school students across the country to Washington D.C. for a week. On Wednesday, they came to Capitol Hill and got a tour from the CHCI interns.

Victoria, an intern from Fresno, and I were able to hang out with California high school students and show them around the Hill. They were happy to be there and luckily they were able to meet two California Congress members.



Congressman Costa and Congressman Garamendi were very nice people and they motivated the students and us interns to keep going and make a change in our communities.

After the R2L day ended I had to hurry to Justin's going away party. Unfortunately, I did not get to know Justin as much but he was a very nice, hard working person in the office. We had a dinner and everyone who works in the office was there. I sat next to Grace and Nathan because they're my only friends in the office. Andrea, someone who taught me good lobbying skills, asked me what I wanted to do in the future. I told her that running for office is what

I'm going to do and she gave me a bunch of advice on how to run a campaign. She also considered me to call her so she can donate to my future campaigns! I also met Eric, he used to work with NVG and now he works in Senator Feinstein's office. I mentioned to him that I would like to meet her and he connected me with another staff member for a constituent breakfast and I was extremely excited.

I am glad that I got to know everyone in the office, especially Irene. She helped me a lot with my work. She is a huge supporter of HEP/CAMP interns and she is so happy to see us here in DC. After the delicious dinner, everyone went to the DNC, "the cool club," and went for karaoke night. I did not get to go because I am not 21, but Irene said I need to come back when I am 21 so we can go to the cool club.

Thursday was packed with meetings and I felt a bit overwhelmed because they were super long. I had 7 meetings, one after the other. Luckily, each meeting was half an hour so I had another half hour to find the next office. Each office wanted to know about the bill and each side of support and opposition.

After a couple meetings, I had to write notes for a webinar about protecting farm workers at the workplace. I was writing notes from the webinar and preparing for my next meeting at the same time and it was a little difficult. One of the CHCI interns saw me working and just sat with me during his lunch break. He wanted to know what I was doing and I told him about the Fairness for Farm Workers Act and the Agricultural Guestworker Act.

He told me that I am probably the busiest intern this summer and that he was happy that I was putting in effort into my work. That pushed me to keep going, even though I was a little tired of remembering statistics of how the Fairness for Farm Workers Act could impact family grocery bills.

After 7 meetings, I was able to go back to the office and relax. Then, I get a call from Giev and he gives me new assignments to start my weekend!