

As my second week at work was approaching, both the stress and the excitement I felt inside of me were growing. It was hard for me to keep up with the fast pace at DC. I was coping with this fast pace by focusing on the idea that I am here to make my parents, my family, and my community proud. As I was walking to my office, I thought about how grateful I am to be walking next to Congress members and extremely knowledgeable people. When I got to the office, a very busy day was ahead of me. Every staffer had tasks for me and I felt happy that they were asking me to help them. It was very stressful because every task had a short deadline. The day went flying so fast that I didn't realize it was time to go home.

On Tuesday, my supervisor gave a family from the congresswoman's district a tour and I went with him. Even though it was not my first time at Capitol Hill, looking at it from a different perspective was very interesting. During the afternoon, I was drafting some letters for constituents and I was answering calls. Being in DC during the "Zero Tolerance Policy" was very stressful and sad. I received many calls from constituents opposed to the separation of families. Some people told me their stories of how they were separated from their parents, and how awful that situation makes life for a family. Being here during such hard times, I realized deep within me that I want to help my community and make a positive difference. It was hard to see the news of kids being separated from their families. Something I've realized while being here is that many people are misinformed. News can be misleading sometimes and people need to make sure they are getting information from unbiased sources.



On Wednesday, my office kept getting calls from people opposing the separation of families. I spent most of my day answering calls from constituents and talking with them about their concerns. When I got home, the other interns and I went to get some ice cream and we talked about different topics. Spending time with people who can understand you and can disagree with you is valuable. As I went back to my room, I was thinking of how thankful I am with my parents, as they have always encouraged me to do great things and have always guided me in the right direction.

On Thursday, I helped my office organize the Women's Working Group Shadow Hearing event. Which was an event hosted by the Congresswoman Roybal-Allard. She invited Nancy Pelosi, Grace Napolitano, Judy Chu, Pramila Jayapal, and some other Congress Members to address the family separation issue. It was a great honor to be in a room full people of such high stature. I had the honor to receive Nancy Pelosi as she arrived at the event. It was my first time experiencing something like that. After I left work, the other interns and I went to get dinner with

Dr. Lisa Ramirez who is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Programs in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. It was a great experience to be able to talk to her and share my story as well as to listen to her story.

On Friday, I assisted the CHCI seminar and I met the President and CEO of CHCI, Domenika Lynch. Her story was very inspiring and showed me just how much of an amazing person she is. I'm so grateful to be meeting amazing people who motivate me to keep going.

During the weekend, I went to the Holocaust museum which was a life changing experience. While walking through the museum, I was thinking about how human beings can commit atrocities like the Holocaust. It's heartbreaking to think that an entire race was being exterminated based on their religion and ethnicity. I also realized that I need to be more active in politics, as well as to oppose all of the injustices happening today to help ensure that nothing like the Holocaust happens again. While I was at the museum I thought about how, throughout my life I've always wondered what I would have done if I was alive during the Holocaust. One of the presenters brought up a very thought provoking idea that really changed my perspective on this subject. He said that I didn't have to ask that question anymore because what I'm doing right now is what I would have done 72 years ago. His statement made me realize that I haven't done enough to make a positive change and that I need to go out and actively protest against injustices.

