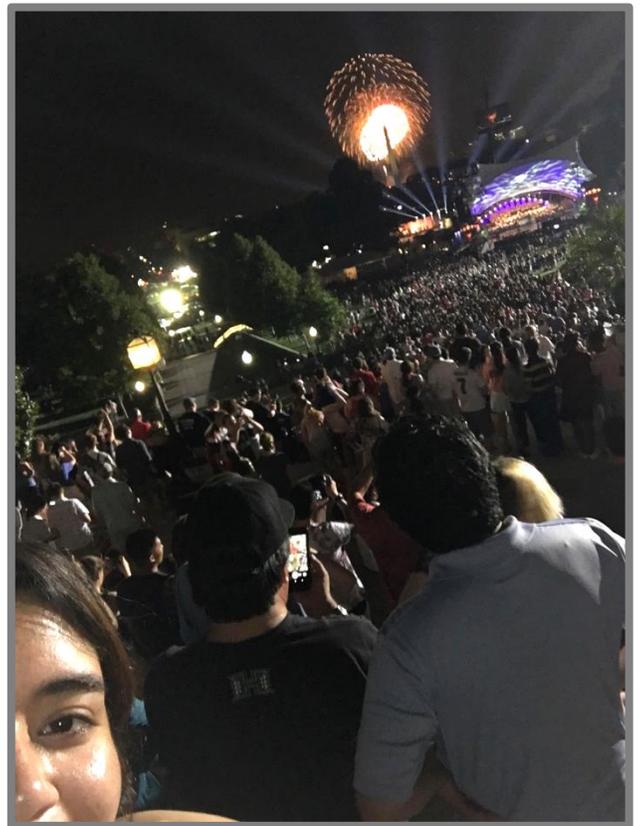


My Journal
By Karla Denise Arana
Week 5 (July 2-July 8, 2018)

During week five, time was moving slowly due to the slow pace at Capitol Hill. For the first time, I didn't feel overwhelmed by the fast pace that I am now accustomed to at DC. I was surprised by how fast I got used to being busy all the time. When Congress is not in session you can practically feel how slow and quiet everything gets in Capitol Hill. Even though the work at my office was slow, I still had new things and tasks to learn.

On Monday, I spent the day answering calls and writing letters. I helped the press secretary come up with some ideas for a social media competition. It was fun and interesting to explore social media outlets from a public figure's perspective; due to how drastically different it is from my normal experience. After work, I went and explore some parts of the city I hadn't visited yet. I met new people at those places.

Wednesday was an exciting day for me. It was my first time celebrating 4th of July in Washington DC, which, in my opinion, is the best place to be during the 4th of July. I walked around the city and the excitement of the people around me was contagious. At night, I stood at US Capitol steps and watched the fireworks and the concert happening in front of the Capitol. It was an impactful moment for me, as it never crossed my mind that I would be sitting on the Capitol steps watching fireworks with the Washington Monument and the rest of the city as a breathtaking background. It was an emotional moment for me because even though it was a beautiful celebration of freedom and independence, I was thinking about those children that were





separated from their parents and how their freedom was not being respected. I thought about my parents who are still being oppressed and judged for looking different or for speaking a different language. I thought about the suffering of African Americans and police brutality. I thought about the travel ban on Middle Eastern Countries and how this administration is not helping Middle Easterners find their own freedom. Everybody has different opinions and perspectives. From my perspective, the Fourth of July is just a reminder of how much work needs to be done.