

My Journal

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Week 6 (July 9-July 15, 2018)



During week 6, the feeling of frustration was a prominent and recurring feeling in me. While performing small tasks at my office, I had a burning desire to make a difference, to fight for my community! So many times, in these past weeks, being on Capitol Hill felt surreal. However, this week I felt like I could make changes actually happen.

During the week, I performed regular tasks at my office. From answering the phone to helping

staffers with their individual tasks. I went to a markup, which is the process by which a U.S. congressional committee or state legislative session debates, amends, and rewrites proposed legislation. It was a great experience to be around members of congress and to observe part of the democratic process.

At the same time, it was frustrating to see congress so polarized and seeing how rash decisions are being made by the majority, without even listening to the other side. After going to the markup, I realized that I need to be more respectful and understanding of other people's ideas, so that I don't find myself acting in the same manner as the majority in Congress. Democracy is a gift and it means that you don't have to agree with other people, but you need to respect their ideas because they have the freedom to have them.



I also attended a briefing on labor and immigration. During the briefing, the speakers explained that people who come here on working visas suffer from exploitation and a lack of basic human rights. The employers exploit their workers and refuse to pay them. This issue needs to be resolved, as I believe it is a threat to basic human rights. Working visas are vulnerable to becoming a method of oppression and I think Congress needs to do something to fix this vulnerability.

