

## The National HEPCAMP Association DC Internship

### Weekly Journal Entry

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Date(s): 07/17/23 - 07/23/23

*Tuesday, July 17, 2023*

### Facts in the Courts

Two more weeks and I'm going back home. Time has gone by so fast and I can't be more thankful for this opportunity. I've had the opportunity to meet so many incredible individuals. My cohort has given me friends who have made this experience one of a kind. Honestly, I do get sad thinking that I might not see my cohort for a long time as many of us are from different states. I'm ready to go back home but I'm not ready to leave the people who have been my family for these past weeks.



My day started by going to a panel discussion on “Reforming How Kids Are Treated in the Federal Criminal Legal System.” The speakers involved in the panel were either working in a nonprofit, or the criminal justice system, or are just advocates of reforming the criminal justice system for youth. Some of the speakers were actually incarcerated at a young age and have seen from first-hand experience how punitive the criminal justice system can be towards kids. They emphasized the fact that many kids during interrogation are not aware of their Miranda rights leading to false confessions. They also talked about how we should not be as punitive with youth who kill their abusers as their brains are not fully developed and can be the cause of them acting before thinking.



Personally, I really enjoy learning about how individuals are trying to reform the criminal justice system. I think it's important for us to highlight that our system needs to be reformed to be more rehabilitative than punitive. I really liked all the proposed bills this panel introduced and I look forward to getting my congressman to co-sponsor them.



Afterwards, I rushed over to Rayburn where a committee hearing was occurring on “ Why Expanding Medicaid to DACA Recipients Will Exacerbate the Border Crisis.” Just by the title you can see that Republicans are against giving DACA recipients Medicaid. AOC is part of the committee in which the hearing took place and she made an argument that proves why they should receive Medicaid.

Through hearings, panels, and briefings I've been able to learn a lot about what our congress members are doing for specific issues and what we as a community should be doing to make change happen.

Wednesday, July 18, 2023

### La Familia Reunida



Hoy empezamos el día con la familia. We got to attend the Annual HEP/CAMP Director meeting. There I got to see Dr. Seline, my CAMP Director, and Melisa, Assistant CAMP Director. It feels really good seeing people from back home. We finally got to see Patrick who we had not seen since the beginning of our internship. I thank him so much for all the support and motivation he gave us; he is truly a person I look up to. I also got to see other directors who I had met in past conferences. It was like a family gathering for CAMP.

We got to introduce ourselves and explain a little bit about how our experience in D.C. has been in front of the audience. Being more aware of what the HEP/CAMP Association and the Office of Migrant Education have done



has allowed us to see what we should be focusing on as a program and with what resources. I'm going to be a peer mentor this fall and I want to make sure that our students coming in are getting all the resources that will allow them to be successful in the long term. I can't seem to thank how much this internship has allowed me to grow not only personally but professionally. I've learned so many skills that I would say you can't learn in college.

I had to go back to work where I started on a design for our website that entails numerous resources that constituents can use.

After work, we went to have dinner with Patrick and part of the board of the HEP/CAMP National Association. It was good getting to meet and see the people who choose us to be here in these positions. And our night ended with eating at Fulkee once again and having that family dinner.





Thursday, July 19, 2023

### Lobbying for the First Time



I started my day like any other. This means looking at the news first thing as I walk into the office. We finished our news clips and sent them out to the staff and soon I had to head out to the Senate to meet with my C&A director and assistant to help with hill visits. Information hill visits are basically when individuals go and inform members of the Senate or Congress on their programs and why they should support them.

We visited multiple senators and congressmen. I saw that there were members who had been supportive of this program while others had no idea of what C&A was even though a good amount of their constituents are part of the program. This is the importance of informing the individuals who are representing these communities. Overall I think hill visits were successful and we were able to get our word out.

After I headed back to my office, they had cake for Angelica and Jamarri who were leaving the office. After our goodbyes, we headed to the capitol to take pictures and film ourselves. Our communication director decided that we should do a video and post for national intern day and wanted to get it done today since it was Jamarri's last day in the office. When we came back to the office we still had 30 min before 5 pm and Grijalva, the congressman, allowed us to go home. He just said, "Go home and have a nice weekend." I looked to my supervisor and he said the same thing. I love my office!

