



The National HEP/CAMP Association DC Internship

Weekly Journal Entry

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Tuesday

I was invited to a USDA meeting with the other interns with Xochitl Torres Small. It was great to hear the other interns talk about their experience and how they were adjusting to the new work environment. We met many important people who worked at USDA. It was great meeting everyone and learning about their experiences. Their life stories made me comfortable sharing my own, as we had all faced similar challenges.

Wednesday

I attended a meeting with different unions in the U.S. They expressed their concerns about child labor and discussed how to solve the problem and raise awareness about the situation. I was able to learn how different organizations see the problem and what they wanted to do to improve the situation. In addition, they discussed various bills and their likelihood of becoming law. I enjoyed being at this meeting as it was very informative and educational to see how unions interact with each other to solve a problem.

Thursday

I was invited to attend a hearing with Give on a bill that was being passed. My coworker had the opportunity to share his testimony about the bill and how it affected him and his family. In addition, he hinted at how adding new changes could benefit and help the community. I enjoyed the meeting because it enlightened me how the chair member listened to everyone's concerns and tried to come up with something that is mutually beneficial to all parties.

Friday

Today I had the opportunity to meet my first mentor and attend a meeting with Dr. Ramírez, who introduced me to her colleagues. They created an environment of mutual support where many of her colleagues gave me advice and their business cards in case I needed to contact them in the future. Finally, I received a tour of the USDA building.

