

I interned for the second half of the summer in the Washington office of Congressman Phil Roe (TN-01). I attended briefings and meetings both on behalf of a staffer as well as accompanying Congressman Roe himself. I took notes at these meetings for staffers in the office would who used the information to help write legislation. These briefings were on a variety of subjects ranging from the economy to defense. These meetings showed me the details of the legislative process; something I thought was my future career path. I was also responsible for receiving, filing, and responding to constituent correspondence. This taught me to research a variety of information and compile it into databases. I used this information to write personalized letters for each constituent's concern; something I took great care in doing because I was writing as the congressman and expressing his views.

I determined during my time in Congressman Roe's office that the career path I wanted to pursue after college has changed. I realized after attending classes staffers were taking that I wanted to pursue defense policy of military affairs. I am not sure if I want to pursue grad school out of college or pursue a job on the hill; I hope future summers will allow me to return to D.C. and continue to mold my career path.

The relationships that I built during my internship made my experience of D.C. exponentially better. Living in an apartment downtown with 5 other interns allowed me to save time and money walking to work. My roommates and I toured the city's monuments and museums, and we were also able to give each other tours where we were interning. This gave me opportunities in D.C. that I would not have had otherwise, from going on tours of various Smithsonian museums, to visiting an international nonprofit corporation's events. I intend to live with friends in a similar apartment should I return to Washington D.C. in the future.