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Wellman Hill Grant Recipient Summer 2021

This past summer, I had the opportunity to intern with State Senator Amanda Cappelletti in my home state of Pennsylvania. There, I served as Communications Fellow and regularly assisted the Legislative team. This internship allowed me to develop the skills needed for my future career in public service and reaffirmed the importance of state government.

Though my internship was held remotely, I was deeply involved with the Senator's team. Each morning, I met online with the entire office and regularly met with the Communications Director, the Chief of Staff, and the Senator herself. My responsibilities within the Communications Department included copywriting for Facebook and Twitter, assisting with the creation of graphics to advertise events, and drafting remarks for public events and the Senate floor.

One particularly memorable project involved the Senator's recently-unveiled legislation to commit the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to use 100% renewable energy by the year 2050 - aptly dubbed, "Go100PA." I was tasked with preparing the first draft of floor remarks for the Senator as well as translating them into concise bullet points for use in a press conference. Having the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the legislative process was not something I had anticipated when I began a college internship, but I truly felt as though I was a part of the Senator's team.

In addition to my work with the Communications Department, I was able to work closely with the Legislative Director and Deputy Legislative Director. During this time, I helped analyze bills and co-sponsorship memos to determine whether their contents deviated from the Senator's beliefs and policy goals. Further, I even had the opportunity to write and present my own memoranda on policy issues such as drug price transparency and surprise medical billing.

I am immensely grateful to Judge Elizabeth Hill and the Political Science Department at Case Western Reserve University for making this possible through the Wellman Hill Political Science Internship Grant program. My internship experience this summer helped me explore multiple avenues of service and solidified my need to use government as an instrument for good.