

Alberto Aramburo

HEP/CAMP Intern Weekly Bio

Week 2, 6/16 – 6-22

22, June 2014

Week 2, it was Monday, the start date of my internship with the United Farmworkers of America (UFW), and I was nervous for what was in store for me. The night before I had to read two summaries of the S.744 Immigration reform and be able to explain them to Giev the next day. I woke up extra early to review the notes I made about the bill to clarify anything I was unsure about. I started at 10:00 AM, and when I arrived at the office I felt a little confused and out of place, for NVG is sharing their office space with us. I reintroduced myself to Giev and Ariana, my co-intern, and they got me a chair and helped me settle in. We then had a meeting about the bill shortly after. We discussed our duties and our assignments and what was the ultimate goal of this internship. One of those assignments was to read 100 pages of the S.744 bill. The goal of reading this was to try to understand it as well as I could, and ask questions about what I didn't understand to Giev. We also made a list of 46 contacts that we will be communicating with throughout the summer. I also had to start a plan on how to convince my congressman to vote for the immigration reform. After the meeting I went to work on the assignments given to me. I even made a poster supporting the Immigration reform. I had no idea what I was getting myself into when I was accepted into this internship, but I'm going to make the most of it.

Throughout the week I continued working on the assignments given to me, but, some highlights did occur. One of them is when me and Areli, my co-intern, went to a panel on the hill discussing and advocating the Immigration Reform. We went only to listen and support the cause, but what we didn't notice is that there was a Telemundo camera crew shooting the meeting and Areli and I came out on Telemundo's news coverage. It might have only been on for four seconds, but it was



a cool experience being on television. Another highlight would be the prayer protest I was able to join in on Thursday. We stood in a hallway where Boehner's office is located and there were two priests there leading a prayer.



Afterwards, several people left fake candles in front of his office door. At the same time everyone was singing, "Ole ole ole ole, si se puede". Afterwards everyone went outside and



gathered around a young little girl. Her name is Jersey Vargas. She was a little girl with a huge impact on the fight for the immigration reform bill. She received an opportunity to speak with the pope and seized that opportunity to let the pope know how immigration in the US has torn her family apart. Then asked the pope to talk to the President to pass the bill, which he did. It's amazing how even one little girl can have such an impact on this cause. I also got the chance to see a documentary of Jose Vargas, a Pilipino

immigrant, fighting for a chance or pathway to citizenship. He was brought to the United States at the age of 13 and grew up here illegally, but fights the government that papers don't make an American an American. Living, eating, studying, and making better opportunities for yourself makes you an American. This man is 32 years old and has not seen his mother since he was 13 when he was brought here. His mother cannot come to the United States for she is too poor to come. He can't go visit her either, for if he goes, there is no guarantee that he may return. He first let the world know of his story by writing an essay for the NY times. After that story his life got more difficult for then his employers had to fire him. He instantly became someone I look up to for even against all odds he didn't give up on what he believed in. He risked everything for not only himself but every immigrant in the United States. He became their voice. The name of the film was "Undocumented". I strongly recommend everyone to watch it.

All in all week two was a success. I can't wait to see what week three has in store for me.