

Monserrath Sanchez

HEP/CAMP Journal

Week 8

Tuesday July 12, 2016: I attended a press release conference for Congressman Ruben Gallego (AZ-7) and Senator Edward Markey (Massachusetts) in which they introduced a new legislation that would ensure that powerful, military-style weapons don't end up in the hands of children. They spoke about the HEART (Help End Assault Rifle Tragedies) Act, will prohibit children under the age of 16 from possessing or firing machine guns and assault weapons, including at gun shows and shooting ranges. Sen. Markey and Congressman Gallego were joined by the four children of Charles Vacca, a firearms instructor who was killed in Arizona in 2014 by a nine-year-old who lost control of an Uzi submachine gun. A similarly tragic incident occurred in 2008 in Westboro, Massachusetts when an eight-year-old child accidentally killed himself while firing an Uzi at a gun show. They both said that they just want no other incident happen to any other family. They want to ensure that no child gets ahold of an assault weapon, and hope their legislation gets passed both through the House and Senate floors.



Wednesday July 13, 2016: On Wednesday I took my official picture with Congressman Xavier Becerra. All of the interns had the opportunity to take one with him and then we had a group photo. We also took a selfie with him! Congressman Xavier Becerra (CA-34), is honestly a great leader and I admire his humbleness. After my picture with the Congressman, some fellow interns and I rushed to the Senate side. We had found out that Senator Barbara Boxer (California) would have a photo opportunity as well. We rushed over and made it on time. Senator Boxer was so kind and tiny! Once I took my picture I headed back to my office.



Thursday July 14, 2016: Thursday was bittersweet, it was my last day of work. I have learned much in these weeks and bonded so well with everyone in the office. I'm saddened that I won't work with them anymore, but I know we will stay in touch. I also was able to set up a meeting with my fellow CAMP interns and Congressman Becerra. I am very thankful that the Congressman allowed this meeting to happen even though he is always so busy. During the meeting he spoke to all of us and wanted to know more about everyone else. After the meeting was over Cynthia, the Congressman's scheduler told me to go with the Congressman to my farewell and birthday party. I was happy to know that the office took the time to make this for me. As we went to the party, I spoke to Congressman Becerra about all of my cool experiences during my time in the office. I cannot express how blessed I have been by working alongside Congressman Becerra. I have learned and grown so much because of his office team and himself. Congressman Becerra has taught me so much on how to be a great leader, but most important to be a great listener. Before I left to go to the CHCI farewell ceremony, Congressman Becerra told me, "Monserrath, never give up on your dreams, you are a great leader. I know you will do great things, and I hope to see you soon." I felt really honored because Congressman Becerra, is a great Latino leader that anyone in California looks up to. I will never forget the awesome things I was able to do while in his office and the amazing friendships I made with the entire team. I then went to the CHCI farewell ceremony, where I was able to listen to inspiration speeches from Congressman Ruben Hinojosa (TX-15), Congressman Tony Cardenas (CA-29), Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grishman (NM-1), and Congresswoman Shelia Jackson Lee (TX-18). They all told us about how we are the rising leaders that will do great things.



Friday July 15, 2016: We spent our last programming day with Domenika Lynch, CHCI's new CEO. She told us her story and how she hopes to be a great leader and impact many more students lives with CHCI. We then had an activity to choose a word that described our internship experience. By the time I got up there most of the words I had originally thought of were taken, so I chose amazing. Everyone I met throughout this experience is amazing regardless what they think, they have beautiful stories that need to be heard and they will all do amazing things within their communities. I have been amazed by all the things they have done and their crazy ideas. I wish them all the best of luck!



Saturday July 16, 2016: We volunteered for the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). It was their last event, a celebration concert. Once we finished our duties we enjoyed the concert as well. The Salsa Master and Gentleman, Gilberto Santa Rosa sang while we all danced and enjoyed our evening. The next artist up was AB Quintanilla, Selena's brother, while he was on stage I was reminded of my childhood. I remembered how the first concert I ever attended was his, I was so small and I loved all of his music. I enjoyed the rest of my evening with my CAMP peers. We then went to Wingo's and ate delicious wings!



Sunday July 17, 2016: On Sunday we attended Dr. Lisa Ramirez home for a BBQ and Talent Show. We all had decided to do a skit for the talent show. We had hamburgers, hotdogs, and fruit. Then we started our talent show. I did farm animal noises, which is kind of cool but embarrassing. I learned to make all these animal noises growing up on a farm. As I child that's how I communicated with the animals. Crystal sang so beautifully; she is a great singer. Then they brought out a cake for me because they did a surprise early birthday party for me! I felt really happy that they thought of me, I know it will be hard to be away from home for this special day. They all made me feel so happy and loved, and I cannot thank them enough for doing this party for me. We enjoyed my birthday cake and Tiramisu, an Italian desert. We then began our skit, in which we all explained our internship experience. After our skit we were able to speak to Dr. Lisa. Dr. Lisa is such an inspiring woman, she is so humble and resilient. She has

been so kind and welcoming to us and she truly is an angel. We headed back home and all discussed how our internship was pretty much over.

