

PICS Summer Internship



Rishika Deshide

Where?

**Office of Congresswoman
Bonnie Watson Coleman**

What?

Legislative Intern



Introduction



- As an intern, I worked alongside legislative staff on The Federal Jobs Guarantee Bill by actively aiding with research, exploring community outreach strategies, and organizing a panel of 4 speakers to discuss the bill.
 - I also attended congressional briefings and composed 20 memos about economic, technology, environmental, and health policy.
 - In addition, I analyzed healthcare legislation under consideration for co-sponsorship.
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Daily Tasks



- I listened to voicemails in the morning and evening and logged constituent complaints and suggestions in a spreadsheet. If constituents called about unemployment or immigration issues, I would help start a constituent casework request that staffers would then take on.
- Another daily task was to complete press clips in the morning. I would sort through community, NJ, national, international news, and pick out articles that were important for the staff and Congresswoman to read. I also would compile daily updates that were relevant to the committees the Congresswoman was on (Appropriations, Black Women and Girls, and Homeland Security).

Federal Jobs Guarantee



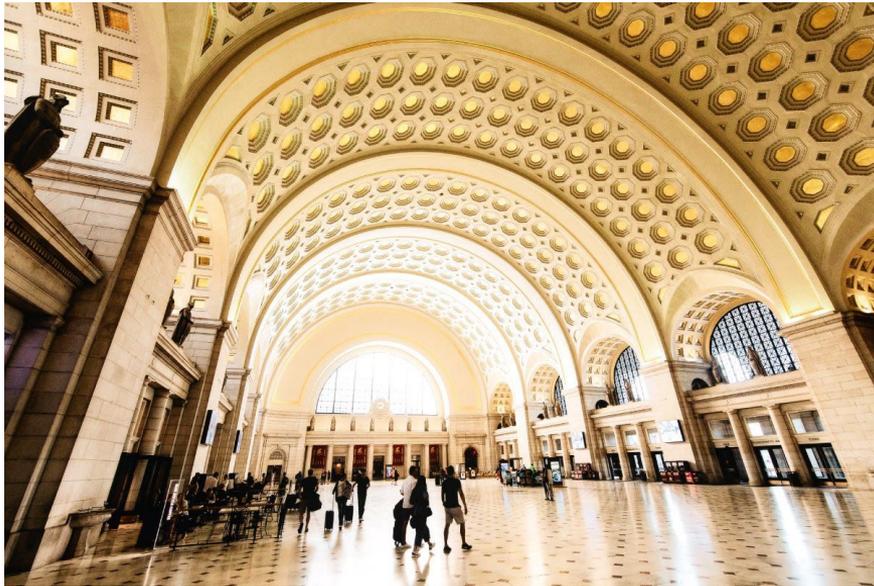
- I helped support research for the Federal Jobs Guarantee by utilizing the Congressional Research Service.
 - I helped write Dear Colleague letters and helped with editing and rewrites of the bill.
 - I created a list of community organizations that would benefit from the bill and also helped find and contact 4 speakers who would host a panel to support the legislation.
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Black Maternal Health



- I attended meetings with different advocacy groups regarding healthcare inequities with a focus on Black maternal health.
 - I helped write memos and briefed the Congresswoman about how the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated health inequities by making it harder for marginalized communities to access quick and quality care
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Economic, Tech, and Health Policy



- I attended 5 policy briefings and research meetings that covered economic, tech, and health policy.
 - For economic issues, I helped with research regarding private equity post-COVID-19 as well as attended meetings where industry leaders discussed climate goals they had set and the steps they were taking to achieve them. I would write memos for any policy briefings/ meetings and send them to the staff.
 - I also attended tech policy briefings and would translate the information into easy to understand memos.
 - For health policy, I wrote reports on everything from facial recognition technology as a response to the pandemic to how the pandemic was specifically impacting Native American tribes.
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Results



- I produced 20 memos on economic, tech, health, and environmental policy.
 - I also wrote many letters about different policy stances that Congresswoman has to community organizations.
 - Helped support the creation and finalization of the Federal Jobs Guarantee Bill
 - Evaluated health legislation up for co-sponsorship
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Favorite Memories



- Coffee chats with the legislation staffers where I got to learn more about their career paths
 - Research technology policy and learning more about the intersection between technology and society
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Limitations?



- The virtual nature of this internship mean that it was hard to form bonds with other interns.
 - I wasn't able to meet my alumni mentor in person.
 - Couldn't explore Capitol Hill or give tours.
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Overall



- I enjoyed the research aspect of my internship the most and loved learning about technology policy
 - The virtual format of the internship made it hard to connect with others and learn from staffers
 - I would have enjoyed attending many of the hearings in person as the Zoom audio and video quality wasn't always stable
 - This internship showed me that I wouldn't be a good fit to work in government as I felt that much of the legislative process was inefficient and slow.
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