



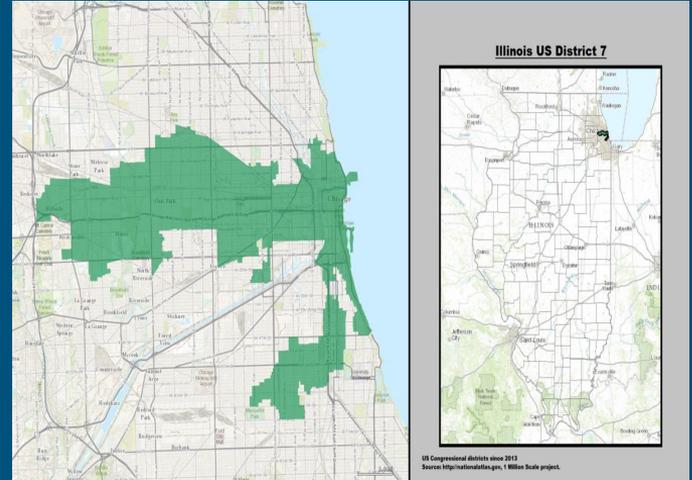
Interning at the Office of State Senator Heather Steans

Katie Goldman



Introduction

- Senator Steans is the state senator for the 7th district of Illinois, a district on the northside of Chicago
- She is a member of the Democrat party, and she focuses on ensuring that the rights of her constituents are protected
- Senator Steans has worked on a number of important bills, including those related to adult-use cannabis, marriage equality, and reproductive rights



My Work

- This summer, I researched social equity in the cannabis industry, police licensing laws, and reparations for Black Americans affected by slavery
- I conducted research my talking to experts on the topics and looking into how different states deal with these policy issues
- Also, I attended meetings on behalf of Senator Steans and summarized the meeting in the form of a memorandum

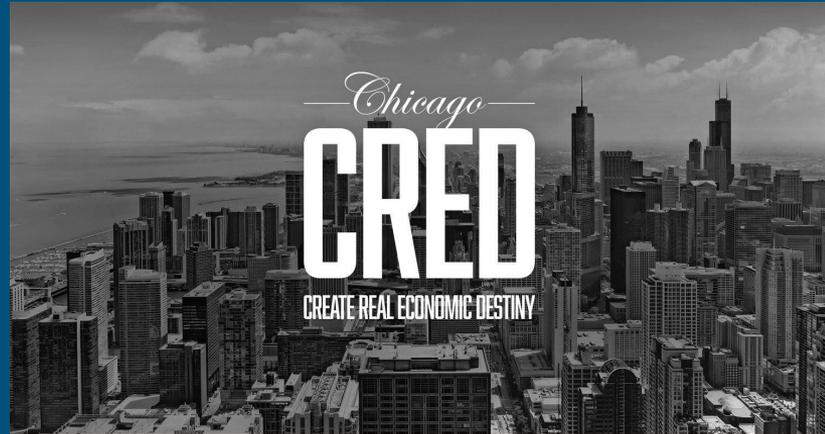


Research Results

- Illinois needs better police licensing laws, as that it is far too easy for officers with misconduct complaints to be hired by other departments within Illinois
- The effects of slavery continue to be felt by Black Americans today, and corporations and governments need to recognize their role in slavery and invest in appropriate communities to mitigate the lasting effects of slavery
- While Illinois has a relatively strong social equity program in the cannabis industry, it can still be improved to be more accessible to individuals who have been affected by the War on Drugs

Intern Discussions

- Senator Steans set up “intern discussions” where we were able to meet individuals who were involved in Chicago organizations related to public policy
- My favorite intern discussion was with Arne Duncan, former U.S. Secretary of Education, who now runs a nonprofit in Chicago called Chicago CRED, an anti-gun violence organization



Reflections and Summary

- I really enjoyed my time working for Senator Steans, as I was able to learn more about how the state government functions
- Thanks to my PICS internship, I am now more interested in pursuing government or policy work

