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Washington Practicum: Bringing Insider Information to the People

Living in Indiana provides an Illinois native like me with one major problem: how do you follow your state’s elected officials in Washington? For many Illinois residents that attend Purdue, awareness of the actions of Illinois legislators in Washington is difficult to obtain. There has been a reoccurring theme in my political science classes; a majority of students have a passion for governmental issues but do not find C-Span or CNBC to be sufficient. My project would be aimed at gathering information to write an easy-to-relate-to blog that will provide information to my peers. I will document the activities and gain valuable insider information during my time in Washington. The main focus of my blog will be to report on issues concerning three freshman congressmen from Illinois. Historically, Illinois has been a largely democratic state. For the first time in seven years Republicans make up the majority of Illinois’ congressional delegation. In three congressional districts, one being the 10th where I reside, freshmen Republican Congressmen Dold, Hultgren, and Walsh were elected. When given the opportunity I will ask them what is currently being done in Washington to control spending and what their personal recommendations may be. I hope to act as a mouthpiece that can deliver this information to my peers, and thus hold the new congressmen accountable. This past summer I was afforded the opportunity to work on the campaign for current Illinois State Representative David Harris. My father is currently serving as Wheeling Township Supervisor and President of the Wheeling Township Republican Organization. The experience of working on a successful campaign, growing up surrounded by politics, the connections that political involvement has given me, and my personality traits are some of the skills I currently possess that insure a high quality end product.