

Ely Osborne, WV – 2018

The week in D.C. that I spent alongside 103 other delegates from across the country was something I will never forget. I come from a very conservative town in rural West Virginia so it was very refreshing to meet kids with opposing views. Not only was it an experience to engage in civil discussion with other delegates, but it was so nice to see that there are other kids equally as passionate about political issues as I am.

My favorite part of the trip was visiting the White House. Many of my colleagues did not have a favorable view of the man holding the position of president at the time but they all respected the office and were excited to be able to enter the White House. President Trump's campaign really got me involved in politics so it meant the world to me to be able to meet him. His plan to bring jobs back to America, slash regulations, and lower taxes really resonated with my family. He was a fighter for the working class and the common man and woman. The man who took on the political establishment on behalf of families like mine had come to meet and congratulate me on my spot in the United States Senate Youth Program. That would have never occurred if it wasn't for this program.

The opportunity the Hearst Foundations and the United States Senate Youth Program provided to me was a debt that I will never be able to pay off. All the speakers I was able to listen to and the insight to the political realm that I was able to grasp is something I will never forget. Myself, along with my peers, asking questions to public figures such as Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch, Senator Tim Scott, and Secretary of the Treasury Mnuchin is not something high school aged kids are supposed to do. I am beyond humbled at the whole experience. I am as inspired now as I have ever been to go out and change the world and fight for the principles and convictions I hold dear to my heart. God Bless this wonderful program.