



Class of 1954 Internship Fund

INTERN PROFILE



Stavan Shah '24 Office of Congressman Seth Moulton

Stavan is a '24 at Dartmouth studying government and engineering sciences. He is active in the Sustainability Club on-campus as a member of the Sustainability Action Program. Additionally, he conducts research on cellulosic biofuel production at the Thayer School of Engineering with the Lee Lynd Lab throughout the week. As a potential pre-law student, Stavan interned as a congressional intern for Congressman Moulton in his D.C. office. Inspired to take environmental action both through policy and technology, Stavan's focuses lay within public policy, engineering, and sustainability.

Stavan was funded by the Rockefeller Center for a Summer 2021 internship, with generous support from the Class of 1954 Internship Fund.

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Executive Summary from Stavan's final report:

This summer, I was a congressional intern at the Office of Congressman Seth Moulton (MA-06). As a congressional intern, I was able to perform my duties both virtually (over Google Meet, Slack, and Outlook) and even in person for two months (I loved taking the House subway to the Capitol rotunda). I cannot be more thankful for the Rocky funding provided to offset the housing costs of living in D.C. for this time. As one of five interns, and one of three full-time, my primary duties comprised of responding to and handling constituent correspondence. I worked directly with my Staff Assistant, Grace Curtiss, and the Legislative Correspondent, Ben Rutan (a Dartmouth '17 who I was surprised to meet). Working in this role, I drafted six co-sponsor requests for the congressman and wrote seven new form letters ranging in topic from the Rohingya crisis to Medicaid Expansion while updating many other existing form letters.

These form letters would be the primary messaging sent out to constituents who contacted the office about these issues and required extensive policy research to write. Additionally, I processed and responded to constituent correspondence by telephone, letter, and email on Indigov. I later worked on many legislative projects and with the office to direct correspondence and outreach to 100+ members' offices to coordinate a local Veterans Town Hall in November 2021, an initiative started by Rep. Seth Moulton.

Legislatively, I performed legislative research on topics such as Clean Energy Tax Credits amidst a summer of passing a Budget Reconciliation Package addressing clean energy infrastructure and funding a high-speed rail network. I worked with Jim Miner, our office's infrastructure legislative assistant, on these projects and also networked with numerous energy staffers and spoke directly with Rep. Sean Casten about his vision for clean energy.

Finally, near the end of my internship, I processed over 400 distressed Afghan Refugee Inquires and delivered them to the State Dept. with poise. I was able to evacuate 3 Afghani nationals and worked with the full team all-hands-on-deck on this serious issue. The office received over 4,000 evacuation inquiries.

I cemented my love for public policy work and better understood my rationale for my future career goals of working in the clean energy sector and later entering the public sphere to push for climate-focused legislation. This internship made me mature in areas I had not even thought I was lacking in. I learned about the direct impact of legislation and the true importance of the work of a congressional office from my time there. It was certainly intense when dealing with important tasks like writing a research document on water infrastructure and clean energy tax credits as well as processing evacuation requests. However, I learned to adapt myself to better complete these tasks and that was something extremely important for me to learn. I am so thankful to have had this internship experience so early in my career and this only cemented my far-fetched dream of one day making it to Congress and making a difference.