Occasionally, my office sponsors a page for the Congressional Page Program. Congressional pages are high school juniors who live, work, and attend school in Washington, D.C. for several months. They play an important role in the life and work of Congress - calling members to votes, acting as couriers, and performing other duties. Selection is highly competitive, and only high school sophomores and juniors may apply. Juniors may only apply for the summer program. Applications are available annually at the end of January and are due by mid-March.

# Eligibility

Eligibility for the Page Program during the academic year is limited to high school juniors with a 3.0 GPA or higher in the core academic subjects. Applicants for the summer program may include rising juniors or rising seniors. All applicants must be at least sixteen years old by the date they begin their Page term. A student who is related to a sitting Member of Congress may not serve as a Page.

## The Page Work Experience

Pages are employees of the House of Representatives, and the work they perform is important. Pages work as a team and not in individual Member offices. Page duties consist primarily of delivering correspondence, legislative material, and small packages within the Congressional complex. Pages are also assigned to answer phones in the Members' Cloakroom, take messages for Members, call them to the phone if they are in the House Chamber and prepare the House Floor for sessions. Still others monitor a telephone bank of incoming requests for page service. A rotation system is practiced so that every page has an opportunity to experience the various areas of service.

The work experience is supervised by full time adult employees who manage the page work responsibilities on a daily basis. Pages sponsored by the Majority report to the Majority Chief Page, and those sponsored by the Minority report to the Minority Chief Page. Pages report to work after classes and work until 5:00 p.m. or when the House adjourns for the day, whichever is later.

# **Appointment**

Academic year pages are asked to serve at least one full semester and may be asked to serve for two semesters. Academic semesters are considered to be Fall and Spring and require attendance at the U.S. House of Representatives Page School. The Summer Program starts approximately the second week of June each year with termination determined by the

legislative work schedule. This schedule also determines whether or not there will be one or two terms of The Summer Page Program.

Appointment to the Page Program is on an at-will basis and may be terminated at any time, with or without cause and with or without notice.

#### How Do I Become a Page?

Since all Pages must be sponsored by a Member of Congress, the first step is to ask a Member of Congress for sponsorship. That Member will then contact the proper hiring authority to start the application process. The application process may differ according to individual Member requirements and Member party procedures. The sponsoring Member's party should be identified and contacted to learn about that specific party's application procedures. All communication regarding the Page Program must be made through the sponsoring Member.

## For More Information and to Apply:

Contact Congressman Larson's Hartford office at (860)278-8888 and ask for page coordinator Beth Monchun.

For additional information on the history of the page program, the page experience, and the application process, please visit the Congressional Page Program website.