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November 29, 2015

Dear Mr. Petalas-

My name is Christine Munn, and I am the Coordinator of Internships at DePauw University, in Greencastle, Indiana. I am writing you today to offer support for a recent Advisory Opinion submission to the FEC by Perkins Coie LLP, on behalf of Hillary for America, regarding one of our sophomore students, Victoria Houghtalen, to enable her to accept 1 experiential learning credit from DePauw, as well as a stipend, to help support her educational and professional development while working on the Hilary for America Campaign during the summer of 2015. The inability of our student to accept this credit and stipend put undue hardship on her and her family, and a significant learning experience was not duly noted on her transcript or formally acknowledged by her home institution. As the administrator of DePauw's Summer Internship Grant Program, I believe that Victoria should be allowed to accept both school credit and a stipend for her summer internship with Hillary for America.

DePauw's program is intended to assist students in doing internships in three distinct areas; non-profit, government, and start-up/small businesses. Because we know these areas often do not have budgets to support paid internships, but recognize the valuable skills built in these arenas, DePauw's Summer Internship Grant Program funds students by ensuring basic summer living costs are covered in order for the student to have the experience. The program supports students doing summer internships in many different industries, and in organizations and politics at either end of the political spectrum. In no way is the stipend contingent upon the political nature of the internship. DePauw University supports its students in exploring all trains of thought and ideologies, and encourages experiential learning in all areas to help develop interests and perspectives in preparation for future career selection, satisfaction and success. Our charge is to ensure that our students are prepared with the skills to be competitive in today's job market, and internships are one of the biggest assurances that students will get job offers. According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, over half (58%) of all college grads who had an internship in college, received a job offer at graduation in 2015.

While some students might have the discretionary income to offset summer living costs in order to participate in an unpaid internship, the majority I have worked with over the past 5 years cannot afford to do so, due to limited financial resources. If the commission finds Victoria's acceptance of the stipend to be impermissible, it will make it impossible for certain socio-economically disadvantaged students to gain valuable experiences in politics, which is where many under-represented voices are often not heard. It is my belief that such a ruling will disproportionately impact diverse students who wish to take an active role in the federal election process. Opportunities should be available to not just those with extraordinary means, and the DePauw Summer Internship Grant Program was built under this philosophy.

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I believe that allowing students like Victoria to accept generally available stipends and school credit from their universities, will positively impact the federal election process, and enable more college students to learn and gain skills from the political process. The DePauw Summer Internship Grant Program will continue to support unpaid internships in many diverse industries. It is my hope that I will be able to award Victoria with her credit and stipend from DePauw in the near future, and alleviate her financial burden to this end.....while also helping to expand future opportunities for more college students around the country.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to a favorable outcome,

Sincerely,

Christine Munn
Coordinator of Internships and Career Adviser
Hubbard Center for Student Engagement
DePauw University
Greencastle, IN