

Bergen County Technical Students Talk Policy with Congressman Rothman

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(Washington, DC)—On Tuesday, October 30th, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) met with twenty students in the Honors Law and Justice Program of Bergen County Technical High School located in Teterboro, New Jersey. The students, most of whom reside in the 9th Congressional District and are represented by Rothman in the U.S. House of Representatives, were in the nation's capital for four days to question various policy makers and experts about issues related to their senior theses projects. Stem cell research, the war in Iraq, health care, and immigration were among the topics they raised with Congressman Rothman.

Once students selected a research topic for their graduating thesis assignment, they were required to find at least 15 congressional contacts (ten from the House and five from the Senate), as well as five members of the Executive Branch and two interest groups, to provide information on policy development. They then scheduled appointments with about five of their contacts and met with those experts during their trip to Washington, DC. In addition to meeting with Congressman Rothman, the students discussed the war on drugs with The Drug Policy Alliance, safe gun laws with The Brady Center, military privatization with staff in the Judge Advocate General (JAG) office of the Pentagon, and other issues with aides to Senators John Kerry, Carl Levin, Chris Dodd, Ron Wyden, and Wayne Allard, among others.

Pictured (L-R): Principal Andrea Sheridan; Raina Figueroa of Lyndhurst; Jessica Cinardo of Lyndhurst; Christina Ebenau of Little Ferry; Joseph Pinsdorf of Bogota; James Soojian of Little Ferry; Anthony Esposito of Little Ferry; Michael Forsthoff of Bogota; Gabe Deverman of Fort Lee; Jared Guarino (seated) of Englewood; Andrea Sievers of Maywood; Roxanne Caicedo of New Milford; Marc Yenicag of Fort Lee; Mercedes Molina of Little Ferry; Evelina Rodriguez of Cliffside Park; Savionne Gordon of Hackensack; Riya Patel of Elmwood Park; Maggie Jurczyk of Lyndhurst; Rob Romaniello of Cliffside Park; Teacher Jeremy Wertheim; Kymberly Venet of Rochelle Park; Teacher Brian Faehndrich; Shannon Francis of Little Ferry; Aid for the Disabled Felix Marfo; Teacher Sharon Jacobs; and School Psychologist Dr. Patricia Carroll.

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