

May Tun

2023 Advocacy Fellows Reflection

What have you learned about advocacy? About yourself?

- This internship has helped me not only professionally, but also personally for me. Professionally, I have learned so many things about advocacy during the past few months. I learned about bills and how to support or defend them. I was able to learn about other advocates' stories. Personally, I have always had trouble speaking/sharing my story or my opinions, so this internship allowed me to improve and grow confident in expressing myself. I was able to tell my story and have my voice heard.

How do you plan to continue to move your own growth as an advocate forward after this experience?

- After this experience, I am planning to learn, spread, and share more about bills and advocate to grow further as an advocate. I will educate myself with bills that involve immigration, healthcare, and education and do my research, and reach out to organizations, legislators in my community and peers to increase my knowledge. Then, I'll spread awareness with people around me and engage them to get involved. I will make sure to share my story and make my voice heard.

What are current strengths/What's missing from the current policy making landscape?

- The strength of policy making in the U.S. is that we have the opportunity to make changes and improve laws. Where I come from before moving to the USA, we don't currently have consistent protection of our freedom of speech. Here, we have the right to speak up for what we believe in and have a chance to change and improve the place we live. There is still a lot missing from the current policy making in Texas. I believe one of them is the consideration of young advocates and their voices to get heard because it's important to have a wide diversity of opinions from people who usually went through the struggles.