

Abel Berhan

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Dear Family and Friends:

I was accepted into the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Summer Advocacy Institute at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. This intensive, one-week program only accepts 20 high schoolers from a nationwide pool of applicants each summer.

Growing up as an African-American male in a diverse and underserved community, I have overcome many racial, social, and economic obstacles. These experiences have helped shape my political views. I've come to realize that there is a strong need for representation of my community. Therefore, I want to increase my knowledge about various types of obstacles occurring in underserved communities so that I can be a part of the solution through engaging in our government and political system to create change.



This summer, from June 19 -25, I will have the opportunity to learn from and work with elected officials, lawyers, lobbyists, other youth activists, journalists, and other experts defending the civil rights and liberties critical to a free and open society. I will receive a more in depth outlook on current human rights and civil liberties that are being violated in our nation. Through this opportunity I will be able to learn how to defend and advance civil liberties, shape political views on issues, and advocate for all communities that have been underserved. I believe this opportunity is critical to my identity and aspiration to be a part of a justice system that represents the diverse nation we live in.

In addition, I look forward to being surrounded by other highly-motivated sophomores and juniors like me that are passionate about creating change in this nation in order to protect all people's freedom.

This program is a pathway for me to pursue a dream of improving the quality of life for underserved citizens. In order to make this a reality, I need to raise \$2,700 to attend the ACLU Summer Advocacy Institute. Due to my family's circumstances, we are unable to afford the cost for me to attend this program. I am asking for your support through donations of any amount. You can send your donations to my GoFundMe account at: <https://www.gofundme.com/AbelACLU>. I truly appreciate your assistance and time!