

AJ Johnson- Personal Statement

I am applying for a Missouri legislative internship because I want to gain direct experience in public service and policymaking by working alongside elected leaders who are actively shaping the future of our state. I've always had a strong interest in government, but I want more than just to study it. I want to be part of it. This internship offers an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to legislative work while also developing the skills and understanding I need for a future in public policy or law.

I'm particularly excited about the offices I selected because each reflects leadership that is driven by values and results. Senator Ben Brown stands out for his real-world experience as a small business owner and his consistent commitment to protecting individual liberties and economic freedom. His leadership in the Missouri Senate, especially on issues like government overreach and parental rights, resonates with my belief that policymaking should empower communities. These are leaders I respect and I want to learn from them.

In terms of what I bring to the table, I'm a hard worker, an attentive learner, and a clear communicator. I have strong writing and research skills, and I enjoy working on projects that require both detail and purpose. Whether it's helping draft constituent communications, preparing briefing materials, or organizing information for legislation, I'm confident I can contribute value to the team. I'm also respectful, professional, and dependable someone you can count on to follow through and step up to take initiative when needed.

Beyond skills, I bring genuine interest and enthusiasm. I want to understand how policy decisions are made, how legislative offices function day-to-day, and how elected officials connect with their communities. I'm not just looking for resume experience, I'm seeking mentorship, challenge, and a front-row seat to how real change happens in Missouri.

Ultimately, this internship is a stepping stone toward my long-term goal of working in public service either through policy development, advocacy, or law. I believe the best way to prepare for that future is to learn directly from those who are doing the work now, and I would be proud to support their office and the CLIP program while gaining those insights.

Thank you for considering my application.