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To Whom It May Concern,

My interest in the Capitol Leadership Internship Program stems from my passion for public service, my eagerness to contribute to my community, and my desire as a pre-law student to better understand the legislative process in Missouri and the United States. As a personable and empathetic leader who values a strong work ethic and collaboration, I believe CLIP will help me grow both personally and professionally. My experiences with Middle Ground Club and Lindbergh High School Student Council have equipped me with the tools to be an asset to the Missouri Capitol's team.

Though I have had a long-standing fascination with government, my passion for political engagement truly began in high school. As a sophomore, I co-founded Middle Ground Club with a student who, while sharing my values of integrity and respect, had different political beliefs. Inspired by our friendship, the club's mission was to foster a space where students could discuss current events and political topics without fear of judgment. We focused on civil discourse rather than debate, emphasizing respect over being "right." By guiding discussions and encouraging quieter members to share their thoughts, I learned the importance of open-mindedness, compromise, and inclusion. These lessons would carry over into any work I do at the Capitol.

In addition to Middle Ground Club, I served as student council president. This role taught me essential organizational and leadership skills. I planned a wide variety of events, including staff appreciation activities, fundraisers, and local and state conferences. Through these experiences, I learned how to lead diverse teams, manage stressful situations, and maintain a positive environment while producing quality work. I also gained experience communicating effectively with students, staff, administrators, and community members. Most importantly, I developed a personal leadership philosophy: as a leader, it is my responsibility to use my skills and knowledge to uplift others, improve my community, and help those around me grow and flourish.

If chosen for the Capitol Leadership Internship Program, I would bring diligence, empathy, and a sincere passion for public service. This opportunity would allow me to support the citizens of Missouri, learn from experienced civic leaders, and explore the real-world impact of policy, all critical steps on my path toward a future in law and government. I am excited about the chance to deepen my understanding of state governance and contribute meaningfully to my home state. Thank you for considering my application.