Dear Indiana Bar Foundation,

Although I attended the United States Senate Youth Program over a month ago, the week still remains fresh in my memory. This is not a testament to my memory, but to the indelible impact that Washington Week has had on me. Thank you for nominating me as an Indiana delegate to the United States Senate Youth Program and for the incredible experience that you made possible for me.

A year ago today, I would never have thought that I would have the opportunity to visit the White House and the Supreme Court. Yet the Senate Youth Program consistently provided us delegates with such remarkable experiences. Throughout the week, we visited many other landmarks as well, such as Library of Congress, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, Mount Vernon, Arlington Cemetery, and many more. Furthermore, the impressive government officials we heard from instilled motivation within us. Some of these speakers included Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Senator Cory Booker, Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, President Donald Trump, and many others.

It was impassioning to see how many of the speakers were Hoosiers. Delegates from other states were envious of the perks that came with being an Indiana delegate. Rushi and I had the distinct honor of taking a photo with fellow Hoosier Chief Justice John Roberts, as well as standing next to Vice President Mike Pence during the presidential photo. Additionally, both Senator Donnelly and Senator Young showed up for the Senate meet-and-greet. This week made me feel an unmatched pride for being a Hoosier.

Although the speakers were immensely inspirational, I also received ample motivation from the other 103 delegates. Never before have I been surrounded by such intelligent and impressive students. The passion in which they exuded has inspired me to become more involved in my own community and state; we all still keep in touch through a large group chat.

I am unclear of the exact career I will pursue, but Washington Week has certainly impacted the decision. I came to Washington Week skeptical of the figureheads in our government, yet hearing their remarkable speeches reassured me that the country is in good hands. The week truly humanized the people in our government and revealed their positive intent.

The United States Senate Youth Program exposed me to numerous perspectives, exalted government officials, and plenty of civic discourse. I am forever thankful that you provided me with such an experience. This program is truly life changing, and I am grateful to have been able to participate in it.

Sincerely,

Jake Ingoglia