

May 10, 2010

## Thoughts On **CELA**

My husband, Jeramy, and I traveled from the San Francisco Bay area to the CELA Conference in Washington D.C., open-minded and prepared to participate in the educational aspect of “Why we were there” and the actual contact-making with the legislators. This was an entirely new and amazing experience, a rare opportunity to actually support and represent legislation that is important to us, which we believe in.

We found the educational aspect of Wednesday’s presentations to be fundamentally important in clarifying the intent of our visits and the outcomes desired. The presentations guided the language we used and the specific points of content needed to engage the legislators and their staff when we visited Capitol Hill offices on Thursday. We found sitting with others from our state was important for aligning our intentions for the following days activity and we were delighted to support the Idaho contingent that needed us as consumers.

Wednesday’s meetings reinforced our ability to confidently deliver our message and encourage the participation of the legislators in making necessary changes to existing legislation and to validate the need for the yet-to-be introduced legislation on CRT. With each meeting, our confidence in presentation grew, learning as we listened to others passionate delivery, making notes of specific questions raised within the meetings and incorporating the thoughtful process into our next contact and ultimately, the follow-up letters. In general, it was an honor to participate. It was fun. The conference was well managed. And we can see doing more of this. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity to make a difference.

Lovely day,

Molly and Jeramy Hale  
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