

Julia N. McKinney

“Nikki”

EXPERIENCE

U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions May 2018-present

Labor Policy Director

Duties include:

- Overseeing labor and employment issues for the Committee and advising the entire Senate Democratic caucus on labor-related matters. This includes, but is not limited to, drafting Senate Minority Leader Schumer’s COVID-19 Heroes’ Fund proposal to provide a wage increase to essential workers during the pandemic which was included in the House-passed HEROES Act (Division Q of HR 6800); supporting Leader Schumer’s office during negotiations of the Federal Employee Paid Leave Act included in the FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 116-92) and the subsequent Paid Parental Leave Technical Corrections included in the FY2021 NDAA (P.L. 116-283); and encouraging the entire Senate Democratic Caucus to oppose Senator Cornyn’s Safe to Work Act (S. 4317), a dangerous liability shield proposal included in the Senate GOP COVID relief package released in the Summer 2020.
- Directed, coached, and empowered the Labor Policy office staff, including two labor counsels, one staff assistant, and several interns and law clerks to perform high-level tasks both individually and within the team to achieve Ranking Member Murray’s goal of defending the rights of workers in America. This includes overseeing outreach to relevant stakeholders, negotiating legislative text, introducing bills, drafting oversight letters, and conducting meetings with Administration officials, other Senate offices, and constituents.
- Managing the Committee’s oversight of the Department of Labor (DOL) and the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), including drafting or editing all letters signed by Senator Murray and, when appropriate, editing letters sent by other members of the Democratic caucus.
- Managing the nominations process for senior DOL and NLRB officials, including and Secretary Scalia and NLRB Members McFerran and Kaplan. As part of the confirmations process, the Labor Policy Office produces a number of documents and supplemental for Ranking Member Murray, our down dais Committee members, and the entire Senate Democratic caucus, including background materials and suggested questions for use in the confirmation hearing or written questions for the record.

Alliance for Excellent Education Washington, D.C.

January 2017-April 2018

Director of Policy Development & Federal Government Relations

Duties included:

- Developing policy positions related to the Every Student Succeeds Act, the Carl D. Perkins Career & Technical Education Act, the Higher Education Act, and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act on behalf of the Alliance and working to incorporate those positions into legislative and regulatory text at the federal level.
- Lobbying Members of Congress, the Administration, and state and local government officials on behalf of the Alliance, including staff of more than 50 Members of Congress, the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration and the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of the Secretary, including one meeting with Secretary DeVos.

- Building coalitions with outside organizations to advance Alliance priorities. Across all issue areas, I engaged with more than 100 different groups in support of additional federal funds for youth workforce programs, Title I schools, and K-12 reading programs.

U.S. Department of Labor Washington, D.C. *Non-Career Appointee*
 Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs
 Deputy Assistant Secretary, Senior Executive Service March 2015-Jan 2017
 Chief of Staff July 2012-March 2015
Acting Chief of Staff March 2012-July 2012
 Senior Legislative Officer October 2010-July 2012

Duties included:

- Portfolio included: Wage and Hour Division, International Labor Affairs Bureau, Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces Executive Order
- Assisting the Acting Assistant Secretary in the day-to-day management of the Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Affairs, which included a staff of 28 and a budget of \$4 million;
- Advising the Secretary of Labor, Deputy Secretary, and Senior Department Officials on issues relevant to Members of Congress and their staff;
- Preparing Department witnesses for Congressional hearings;
- Managing the Senate confirmation process for the President’s Labor Department nominees, including the confirmation of Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez and Deputy Secretary Christopher Lu.

U.S. Senator Susan M. Collins Washington, D.C. August 2007-Sept 2010
 Senior Legislative Assistant

- Portfolio included: Early Childhood, K-12, and Higher Education issues; Labor issues related to non-federal employees; Native American Affairs; Child Care; Child Abuse; Volunteerism, LGBT and Civil Rights issues.
- Legislative Work: Negotiated the compromise language included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to create the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund; Drafted legislation to reauthorize the Rural Education Achievement Program; Drafted an amendment to the FY10 Budget Resolution regarding funding for the TRIO and GEAR UP programs which was subsequently accepted by unanimous consent; Negotiated second degree amendments to the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act during debate of the FY10 Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 111-84); Drafted the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act; Drafted the Girl Scout Commemorative Coin Act (P.L. 111-86).

Centreville High School Clifton, VA August 2006-August 2007
 Social Studies Teacher

Annandale High School Annandale, VA August 2005-June 2006
 Social Studies Teacher

Dover High School Dover, DE August 2000-July 2005
 Social Studies Teacher

Spotsylvania High School Spotsylvania, VA August 1999-June 2000
 Social Studies Teacher

EDUCATION

The George Washington University Washington, D.C.
Master of Arts, Education Policy Studies

August 2005-May 2007

University of Delaware Newark, DE
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science Education

August 1995-May 1999
Minor: History

References Available Upon Request

