

Eighth grade is the last year of middle school. You spend your school year enjoying time with your friends, thinking about the future and preparing for high school. Never would I have imagined doing all of those responsibilities while making new friends, opening doors to endless opportunities and learning about the inner workings of the Vermont Legislature.

I was fortunate to be selected for the 2022 page program and it has been a wonderful educational experience. Because of the page program I was able to meet fellow eighth grade students from around the state; students I never would have otherwise met. I also had the chance to become familiar with those who support and govern our home state of Vermont. Now I understand how hard legislators work to turn ideas into laws that benefit everyone. Often, as 8th graders, we're thinking that the legislature is only for adults to watch on the news or pay attention to because it affects their work and their taxes. We don't think of how it affects us, when in fact, it does affect us. Laws that are enacted and amended today are the foundation of tomorrow, just like our United States Constitution remains the foundation of our nation, even today.

To hear the legislators discuss bills and work toward compromise with each other reminds us that problems are solved by working together. As we deliver messages and mail to our legislators, we are constantly bringing them new information and perspectives. Their ability to process so many different paths is critical for the success of Vermont. So even when they don't agree, they are all trying to do the best for our state.

I have an even higher respect for these elected officials who serve our state every day since I have had the honor to work as a page. I am thankful for the chance to play a small role in such a big undertaking.

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