

Baher Hussein

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EDUCATION

Master of Arts in Political Science
University of Toronto, Toronto ON

08/2021-08/2022

- Cumulative GPA: 3.83
- Highlighted courses: Thinking Through Research Design, Methods in Political Research
- Conducted phone interviews and in person focus groups for thesis
- Presented findings to large classroom and gathered feedback

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Multimedia Journalism
Loyola University of Chicago, Chicago IL

08/2017-12/2020

- Cumulative GPA: 3.6
- Highlighted courses: Journalistic Research Methods, Reporting Basics, Policy Analysis

EXPERIENCE

Senior Public Affairs Specialist, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota 08/2023-Present

- Monitor state administrative and legislative activity, including task forces, committee hearings and boards and provide accurate written reports, keeping the public affairs team and key business partners updated
- Work with internal business partners regarding introduced legislation, collect information and data to help determine BCBSMN's position
- Engage internal partners, external partners and stakeholders, state and federal legislators and staff to identify win/win opportunities that move policy priorities forward while advancing BCBSMN business goals
- Serve as a contact for legislators and legislative staff and work with appropriate internal staff to resolve constituent or personal issues or questions related to Blue Cross
- Assist in development and dissemination of organization's policy positions to legislators and other state elected officials using fact-based information, to advance the organization's public affairs goals, at the direction of the Director of Government Relations
- Conduct research and analysis on state and federal public policy issues and produce written communication to advance public policy goals, including policy papers, speeches, power points, fact sheets, talking points, research summaries as directed
- Work with Public Affairs team to develop and distribute materials that provide useful information to legislators, regulators, and the public on issues affecting Blue Cross
- Assist in the coordination of public affairs initiatives, including grassroots programming, partner engagement meetings, and other special projects
- Track and actively participate in committees of federal and state trade associations, as needed

Public Affairs Coordinator, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota 11/2022-08/2023

- Developed and maintained a bill tracking system to follow state legislation
- Researched and assisted in evaluation of finance and economic reports and budgets
- Assisted in the development of department publications (yearly legislative session summary, Blue Cross Views, and Highlights)
- Researched and prepared timely responses to internal and external written correspondence
- Kept up to date on legislation in the Minnesota House, Senate, and other states issues

Communications Assistant, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON 09/2021-09-2022

- Wrote and edited stories, profiles, and announcements on the university's climate goals
- Helped proofread and publish a monthly sustainability newsletter
- Developed event posters, flyers, and other promotional materials both in print and digitally
- Gathered and maintained accurate and detailed information about contacts and stakeholders
- Drafted communications, including briefing materials, emails, and memorandums
- Maintained relationships and communications with internal and external partners
- Managed daily information needs and communication requests

Compliance Analyst, G7 Research Group, Toronto, ON 10/2021-05/2022

- Developed methods for evaluating the benefits of Italy's investments in Africa
- Evaluated the impact of Italy's investments on sustainable growth and health policy in Africa
- Evaluated Italy's compliance with promises made at the 2021 G7 Cornwall Summit

Public Affairs Intern, Progressive Policy Institute, Washington, D.C. 05/2021-08/2021

- Drafted summaries and reports for PPI's website
- Analyzed and recommended PPI's position on relevant legislative proposals
- Compiled statistics for editorial and web materials on various public policy issues

Legislative Assistant, MN House Research Department, St. Paul M.N 12/2020-05/2021

- Monitored legislation during the legislative session
- Edited bill summaries with the purpose of advancing state policy issues
- Summarized regulatory publications and monitored public policy
- Developed a holistic understanding of the legislative process

SKILLS

- Asana
- Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Dynamics 365
- Constant Contact
- Adobe Suite
- Mailchimp
- Excellent written, verbal, and interpersonal communication skills
- Strong attention to detail; able to meet deadlines
- Strong prioritization and time management skills