To: L'Taken Participants (& Their Families)
From: Religious Action Center Program Staff
RE: Schedule for the L'Taken Social Justice Seminar

Are you ready to change the world? Then, get excited for the Bernard and Audre Rapoport *L'Taken* Social Justice Seminar! In partnership with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC), you will have the opportunity to impact our political process as you share your views on social justice topics with decision-makers on Capitol Hill. Attached is a sample schedule for the *L'Taken* Seminar, which provides more details about the programming throughout the weekend and the different topics that we will explore together.

Our program is designed to both expose you to a variety of public policy issues and explore the Jewish values that inform the Reform Movement's advocacy around these issues. **Throughout the weekend, we will give you the knowledge and tools to write an effective, persuasive and passionate speech on a topic of your choice to present when you visit the offices of your Senators and Representatives on the Monday of the program.** Lobbying a Member of Congress is a unique experience that very few Americans take advantage of and one that can have a significant impact on the course of legislation. After meeting with our students, Members of Congress have chosen to co-sponsor, offer amendments to and vote for pieces of legislation that participants discussed. We expect to have similar stories to tell after you present your speeches this year.

The trajectory of our programming goes from broad to narrow—first, exposing you to a range of topics and eventually encouraging you to focus on a single, specific issue about which you are particularly passionate. On Friday and Saturday, you will have the opportunity to **attend programs on a range of topics, including Israel, the environment, reproductive rights, LGBTQ civil rights, church/state separation, international relations and more**! On Sunday, with the support of your chaperones and the RAC Staff, you will pick a specific topic and **write a speech to deliver on Capitol Hill on Monday**.

Of course, we will also take advantage of the vast opportunities available in our nation's Capitol by visiting the **National Holocaust Memorial Museum** and the **Smithsonian National Mall** and celebrating ***Havdallah* at the Jefferson Memorial**. And, all the while, you will have the chance to meet and mingle with Reform Jews from across the United States, all of whom are in D.C. for the same reason that you are—to pursue *tikkun olam*.

We look forward to seeing you in Washington, D.C. and to visiting Capitol Hill to lobby, as a unified voice, on issues of importance to the Reform Movement. Together, we can fulfill the commandment of "*Tzedek, tzedek tirdof,*" "Justice, justice you shall pursue" (Deuteronomy 16:20).

For more information about the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, visit www.rac.org.

Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

Bernard and Audre Rapoport

L'Taken Social Justice Seminar

A Jewish Social Justice Program in Washington, D.C.

****SAMPLE SCHEDULE****

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Friday

6:15 PM	*Kabbalat Shabbat*
6:30 PM	Welcome and Introductions Shabbat Dinner
7:45 PM	Shabbat Services
9:00 PM	*Faces of Homelessness,* National Coalition for the Homeless
10:00 PM	Chaperones' Meeting
10:30 PM	*Shuk* Program sign-up
10:45 PM	Free Time & Snack
11:00 PM	Meet with your congregation
11:15 PM	*Lailah Tov* – All students in their own rooms

Our first opportunity to explore a social justice issue together! Hear from individuals who are currently experiencing or formerly experienced homelessness and learn about the legislative efforts to reduce homelessness and increase services for people living on the streets.

Sign up to learn about social justice issues that are particularly interesting to YOU! See the lists of *Shuk* programs below to explore the topics that you can choose.

Saturday

7:45 AM	Boker Tov
8:15 AM	Breakfast
8:45 AM	Shabbat Services
10:30 AM	*Kesef, Koach, and Politika: A Lobbying Simulation* Campaign Finance Reform & Offshore Oil Drilling
12:15 PM	Lunch
1:15 PM	Visit the National Holocaust Memorial Museum

4:30 PM Free Time & Dinner in Georgetown

7:00 PM *Havdallah* Service at the Jefferson Memorial

8:30 PM **Program *Shuk* (Choose one program to attend):**

- Oy Story: How Government Can Help Families Survive the Great Recession
- Reducing the Rollback of Reproductive Rights
- The Minority Report: The Hunt for Equal Rights in Israel
- The Carbon Game: How You Can Literally Save the World
- ENDAiscrimination: LBGTQ Equality in the Workplace
- I Want to Live in America: The DREAM Act and Comprehensive Immigration Reform
- Save a Life, Save the World: The Global AIDS Crisis in Perspective
- To Teach or to Preach? That is the question…

9:30 PM Chaperones' Meeting

9:45 PM Free Time & Snack

10:30 PM Meet with your congregation

11:00 PM *Lailah Tov* – All students in their own rooms

Sunday

7:45 AM *Boker Tov*

8:00 AM Breakfast

8:30 AM *Israel and the Peace Process: Loving Israel – Seeking Peace*

Become a member of the Israeli Knesset (the Israeli government)! Learn how Israel's government functions and the major issues of contention in the Middle East Peace process.

10:00 AM *Birkhot Ha-Shachar* – Morning Blessings

10:45 AM **Program *Shuk* (Choose one program to attend):**

- Oy Story: How Government Can Help Families Survive the Great Recession
- Reducing the Rollback of Reproductive Rights
- The Minority Report: The Hunt for Equal Rights in Israel
- The Carbon Game: How You Can Literally Save the World
- ENDAiscrimination: LBGTQ Equality in the Workplace
- Get Up, Stand Up: International Human Rights
- To Save a Life: The Ethics of Embryonic Stem Cell Research
- Embrace the Rainbow: A Covenant Against the Flood of Bullying

12:00 PM Lunch

12:45 PM Lobby Prep, Part 1A – *How to be an Effective Advocate*

Hear from the RAC Staff about how to make sure your voice is heard on Capitol Hill! Learn how a bill becomes a law and what makes a good lobby speech.

1:45 PM Lobby Prep, Part 1B – State Delegation Time

2:30 PM Visit Smithsonian National Mall

5:30 PM Dinner in Pentagon Row - Arlington, VA

7:00 PM Lobby Prep, Part 2 – Time to Read Memos

7:30 PM Lobby Prep, Part 3A – Meet with the LAs who work on your issue

8:00 PM Lobby Prep, Part 4 – Write speeches, ask LAs questions

10:45 PM Lobby Prep Ends

11:15 PM *Lailah Tov* – All students in their own rooms

Write a speech about an issue that YOU care about to deliver in the office of your Senators and/or Representative on Monday. Work with your chaperones and the RAC Staff to effectively and clearly convey your message and your passion.

Monday

7:45 AM *Boker Tov*

8:00 AM Breakfast

8:30 AM Final Lobbying Tips & Preparation

10:00 - 1:45 Meetings on Capitol Hill

2:00 PM *Where Do We Go From Here?* – Wrap up

2: 30 PM *L'hitraot*!

This program was made possible through the generosity of:

Bernard and Audre Rapoport

The Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation

The Gus and Barbara Kuhn Fund

The Righteous Persons Foundation