

BLAKE A. SELZER

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EXPERIENCE

Edesia Nutrition Washington, DC
Director of Government Affairs

March 2025-Present

- Lead the development and execution of Edesia's U.S. and global advocacy efforts.
- Implement strategic advocacy initiatives to strengthen partnerships with U.S. government agencies, UN organizations, NGO's, international donors, and influencers in the food security space.
- Developing strong relations with U.S. Congress, USAID, UN Agencies, and NGOs to drive organizational goals.

Alliance to End Hunger Washington, DC
International Policy Manager

June 2022-March 2025

- Direct international policy and advocacy for a coalition of humanitarian NGO's, corporations, faith organizations, and universities working to alleviate hunger.
- Develop and implement international advocacy plans for the Alliance, including active lobbying Congress and the Administration. Worked with key Senate offices on legislation to authorize a foundation for global food security and secured increased congressional funding for key Alliance priorities in the legislative process.
- Lead spokesperson for the Alliance on international issues.
- Organized congressional staff delegation for visit to Alliance member.

Norwegian Refugee Council Jerusalem
Advocacy Coordinator

June 2020-August 2020

- Developed and implemented a comprehensive advocacy campaign strategy for NRC Palestine in the U.S.
- Conducted briefings for U.S. policymakers to oppose annexation and ensure Palestinian rights are respected and IHL and IHRL violations are redressed.
- Drafted position papers on Israel/Palestine for US policymakers for evidence-based advocacy purposes.

Association of International Development Agencies (AIDA) Jerusalem
Advocacy and Communicators Coordinator

September 2018-May 2020

- Directed policy, advocacy and communications efforts of consortium of over 80 international humanitarian development and human rights organizations operating in the occupied Palestinian territory to support the rights and lives of Palestinians.
- Represented AIDA and its members in key networks locally and internationally, including NGO and United Nations coalitions supporting coordinated advocacy work supporting Palestinians.
- Advocated policymakers and diplomats on behalf of AIDA and its members in targeted capitals globally.

CARE International Amman, Jordan
Senior Regional Advocacy Coordinator

September 2014-August 2017

- Directed CARE International policy and advocacy around the Syria regional crisis, including advising CARE's work in Syria, and Jordan, Lebanon, and Türkiye country offices.
- Developed CARE International Syria regional advocacy strategy for CARE members globally and trained country and region-level staff.
- Represented CARE International with coalitions, governments, UN agencies, donors, and key regional and country-level advocacy forums.
- Served as an active member of the Syria INGO Regional Forum (SIRF) Advocacy Working Group.

CARE USA Washington, DC

September 2008-August 2014

Senior Policy Advocate

- Directed CARE USA policy and advocacy on humanitarian assistance in conflict areas and emergencies, including Syria regional crisis, and the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Gaza.
- Drafted policy and advocacy strategies for Syria crisis; drafted testimony for CARE witnesses, worked with key Administration (State Department, Treasury, USAID) and Congressional staff in support of CARE's priorities.
- Provided expertise and draft language to Congressional staff leading to legislation introduced in the United States Senate on Syria.
- Led CARE USA policy and advocacy on global food security and international food aid reform, resulting in increased funding and policy changes made by USAID to global food aid policy.
- Lead CARE spokesperson on humanitarian policy, resulting in coverage on *National Public Radio* and *The New York Times*.
- Led CARE USA government advocacy on budget and appropriations. Lobbied key Congressional members and staff in support of international development funding.
- Served as Interim Regional Advocacy Coordinator – Horn of Africa for CARE International, developing advocacy plan for the region.

NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION Washington, DC

Legislative Director, Legislative Representative Appropriations Specialist

May 2001-August 2008

- Senior lobbyist responsible for NPCA's legislative efforts to secure optimum funding for national parks through the appropriations process, National Park Service budget analysis, cultivation of members of Congress and staff, advancement of NPCA's legislative agenda with Congress and Administration.
- Achievements included obtaining the largest increase in history for park operations for the National Park Service in President's FY 2008 budget request.
- Developed and implemented legislative strategy for NPCA; tracked and analyzed legislation affecting national parks; prepared and presented testimony on behalf of NPCA.

CENTER FOR MARINE CONSERVATION (CMC) Washington, DC

May 2000-April 2001

Legislative Director

- Directed legislative advocacy activities of CMC, the leading U.S. non-profit organization dedicated to protecting ocean environment and marine life.
- Represented CMC on Capitol Hill and in environmental coalitions to generate support for marine conservation policy; developed CMC's legislative strategy; drafted testimony on relevant legislation.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE WALTER/LOIS CAPPS Washington, DC

January 1997-May 2000

Legislative Assistant

- Developed conservation legislative platform for member of Congress; drafted legislation; conducted legislative analyses; prepared testimony and advised Representative Capps on legislative issues.
- Worked through the budget and appropriations process to secure funding for conservation and public works projects; drafted legislation to study sensitive coastal lands preservation.

FRIENDS OF LOIS CAPPS San Luis Obispo, CA

November 1997-March 1998

Field Director

- Directed the countywide field advocacy efforts for successful campaign to elect Lois Capps to the U.S. House of Representatives in a special election.
- Managed over 200 volunteers for congressional campaign, responsible for volunteer recruitment and training, outreach to business community, precinct walking, voter identification, and phone banking.

EDUCATION

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, ROBERT F. WAGNER GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE

Master of Public Policy, Environmental Policy, May 1993

Honors: Public Service Fellowship; Sterling D. Spero Award - Best Written Work in the Master's Category

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN LUIS OBISPO

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, Public Administration, December 1988

Honors: Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honor Society), Dean's List