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2026 SRC D Policy Fellow Spotlight: Katherine Hagan, Ph.D.

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SRC D Policy Fellow

2025-2026 Cohort

AUTHOR

Q: In a few sentences, what is your role at the agency you work for?

A: I am a 2025-2026 policy fellow in the Office of U.S. Senator Raphael Warnock (Democrat, Georgia). In this capacity, I have met with constituents on matters related to health and education. I have also drafted background memos on upcoming policy decisions, contributed to preparation for committee hearings, and had the opportunity to brief the Senator on health topics.

Q: What interested you in becoming an SRC D Policy Fellow?

A: I was excited by the prospect of immersing myself in a congressional setting. While I have long hoped that my participation in child development science might have a real-world impact (however modest), the translation of science into policy previously felt remote and abstract at times. For me, an important goal for the fellowship has been to better understand what roles researchers have in the policymaking landscape and how developmental scientists can be of public service.

Q: How do you think the fellowship has helped further your career?

A: Learning about the role of developmental science in federal institutions has enabled me to consider career paths that would otherwise be unfamiliar to me. The fellowship also offers many networking opportunities.

Q: What piqued your interest in working in policy?

A: The far-reaching implications of policymaking for the lives of children and families compelled me to learn more about policy development.

Q: What has been your favorite aspect of SRCD's fellowship?

A: My favorite aspect of the fellowship has been the opportunity to witness history in the making. For example, I had the chance to see the Senator speak on the Senate floor, and it was riveting to hear his remarks firsthand. It is an honor and a tremendous learning experience to see policymaking processes unfold in person.

Q: Where are you from?

A: Atlanta, Georgia
