

Vice Chair

Angel Leo, DO



**Residency Program: In His Image Family Medicine Residency
Fellowship Program:**

Specialty: Family Medicine

Statement of Interest

I am writing to express my interest in joining AMA's RFS Governing Council as Vice-Chair. I believe that my professional, personal and academic experiences will enable me to make a strong contribution to the council and afford me the opportunity to join AMA's efforts to strengthen advocacy for important healthcare initiatives. The majority of my Residency career has been spent serving marginalized people groups, such as refugees, immigrants, Medicare/Medicaid holders and uninsured patients. I am passionate about creating avenues for families to rise above socioeconomic barriers to healthcare. My career plans include serving in under-served areas to reduce the gap in healthcare delivery along with healthcare policy advocacy. Through my Master of Public Health studies at Liberty University, I was able to gain a deeper understanding of both the conceptual and practical issues relating to healthcare delivery and public policy. Classes on healthcare reform and public policy have strengthened my knowledge of the best practices. This, combined with my practical experience of serving under-served populations during Residency, motivated me greatly to pursue more rigorous avenues of advocacy through the AMA. In sum, a place in the RFS Governing Council will afford me the opportunity both to contribute my experience and skills as well as to deepen my own understanding of the complex issues we are facing today. I'm elated at the prospect of joining one of the most prominent and prestigious organizations in the nation and hope that you will look favorably upon my candidacy.

Diversity Statement

Born and raised in the rural slums of Bangalore, India, I experienced first-hand the adverse effects of poor health care provision. Poor healthcare access was the ultimate culprit for my sister's death. Losing her to a disease that was easily preventable and treatable became one of my biggest sources of motivation for medical public service. Everything about me down to my thought-processes was heavily influenced by this single event. After moving to the United States at the age of 11, the challenge of assimilation and acclimation was immense. Language and cultural barriers were only the tip of the mountain of challenges that I had to conquer. However, owing to the support I received from my family and community members who encouraged me to believe that I could overcome the barriers and become a Physician, I was successfully able to step into my calling of becoming a Family Medicine Physician. I know that many, like myself, are facing racial, social, economic and even spiritual challenges in their journey to achieving their dream of a career in medicine. I believe that my life experiences have given me first-hand understanding of immense barriers that stand in the way of everything from healthcare access to the pursuit of higher education and acquiring well-paying jobs. Despite being a first-world nation, this is the reality for many people every day. If given the opportunity, I will devotedly use my voice and join in the effort to break such barriers to move our communities forward.