

Alternate Delegate

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Residency Program: Washington University in St. Louis Internal Medicine

Fellowship Program:

Specialty: Internal Medicine

Statement of Interest

I recently had a patient come to my primary care clinic in St. Louis, MO. She was newly pregnant and she came to establish care. As I did with every patient, I shook her hand and welcomed her to our clinic, asking her what concerns we could address together today. “I want an abortion.” My mind immediately flashed to the new legislation reports on the news. This is when my heart dropped. As residents, I strongly believe we do our patients and ourselves a huge disservice by not being involved in advocacy and the change in tides of legislation. It’s a skill we’re simply not taught in medical school, but it’s essential to do right by our patients. Too often, new laws are being proposed that threaten our future careers—Ohio banning all institutional vaccination requirements, Missouri opposing diversity, equity, and inclusion education in medical schools statewide. As new providers, it becomes our jobs to be the voice pushing for the type of healthcare we want to see. We all have a stake in making things different. While our states have individually made progress in their own ways, I believe we still have a long way to go in securing high-quality healthcare for our patients and high-quality training experiences for our trainees. I hope to be a part of this movement as a member of the AMA GC.

Diversity Statement

Living in St. Louis for the last ten months has been a crash-course in structural racism, systemic discrimination, and inequity. We experience this first-hand while on rotations in the hospital. Medical mistrust pervades many medical decisions, an unfortunate reality of life in the current climate. During my first year of residency, I joined our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Housestaff Council, a unique opportunity for me to learn from peers and patients about the history of oppression. I had the privilege to discuss with experts the influence of systemic barriers on resources and, more importantly, representation. As a group, we've discussed extensively the role of marginalization and discrimination, and the stake all of us in the healthcare industry have in making sure we have more seats at the table, particularly for those who experience the world differently than we do.

As a woman of color in medicine, I feel acutely aware of the experiences I, myself, have faced in the workplace, ones where myself and others like me have felt left out of the conversation. For example, at my first Missouri State Medical Association meeting, I was astonished to see how few people of color sat in the stands. However, I feel the piece that I uniquely bring is the realization that I may not understand firsthand the struggles of other marginalized groups, and instead, a desire to listen and a desire to advocate—whether through teaching others, recruitment, or leaving space on the stage to amplify others' voices.