

## Delegate

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#### Statement of Interest

Though I knew little about the AMA before joining in M1, organized medicine quickly became deeply meaningful to me, and something I knew I would make a part of my career going forward. It started with informal meetings at my medical school, quickly expanding into formal meetings of our county and state societies. I enjoyed the democratic process surrounding resolution endorsement, debates in committees and the HOD, and voting approved resolutions into policy (particularly as even unlearned M1s were welcomed into the process). But seeing the impact these resolutions can have on state and federal laws was the spark that truly impassioned me. Coming from a rural background, I knew how ill-equipped our medical system is to help these communities with the issues most important to their health. Likewise, in clinical volunteering early in med school, I could see just how much of the urban population surrounding me was simply unable to access the amazing medical care just blocks away. Changes in law are the only way to really impact these disadvantaged and underrepresented groups, and short of becoming a member of congress, the best way we can impact policy is by informing those in power about the issues - about what would really help our patients. As a delegate in my state society and through writing (and passing) a resolution in the AMA HOD, I have the experience and drive to excel as a delegate in the RFS, and the passion to advocate for what is best for patients.

#### Diversity Statement

While my demographics are not terribly diverse, my life experiences certainly are. I did not come to medicine early, but explored other careers first – most seriously, monasticism. The solitude which allowed for introspection and understanding of my life aspirations was ultimately its own demise, however, as I learned that I wished to help people more directly, and that I grow more when surrounded and challenged by others. My resultant pursuit of medicine and passion for advocacy has kept me involved in organized medicine. This background has also grounded me and helped me to remember the reasons behind my actions. It kept me sane when I did not match into residency in my first cycle, and allowed me to realize that exploring other paths - ultimately leading to my current residency acceptance – may ultimately be better for my growth and allow me to do more good throughout my career. The birth of my son likewise reminded me of why I advocate - for our future, for hope of a better world, and to show him by example that one can never give in when facing difficult odds. "Bad men need nothing more to compass their ends, than that good men should look on and do nothing" (John Stuart Mill). This is why, despite any odds, I will always fight for the integrity of the profession and for the good of our patients.