Statement of Interest

In everything I do, I apply the concept of “nothing about us without us.” It’s a concept stemming from community engagement which refers to the active participation of a community in work involving that community. Because each of us has unique lived experiences, backgrounds, and intersecting identities which shape our own perspectives of the world, we cannot fully understand what another person or community of people is experiencing.

When we, as the AMA-MSS, come together to advocate, we are advocating not only for communities of people similar to those from which we came, but we are simultaneously helping one another to advocate for communities with which we may not personally be familiar. The community-building element of the AMA-MSS is one which allows us, as a group, to better support marginalized and underrepresented communities of patients and fellow physicians-in-training. That being said, we as individuals in this group will not always have shared lived experiences with the communities for which we advocate. We teach one another about the groups we know best and the issues they face based on what we have learned on our own. Although we may teach one another everything we know, we cannot always offer the perspective of the communities for which we advocate.

The AMA-MSS is in a unique position to utilize the relationships we have built with our peer organizations for advocacy, including SNMA, LMSA, APAMSA, and MSPA, among others. Through these relationships, we are offered another perspective on the advocacy we engage in. We have an opportunity to simultaneously support our peer organizations and their communities while also learning how to better advocate for them. Many of our own members are part of these peer organizations. The AMA-MSS can harness the relationships we already have with our peer organizations and the communities to which our members belong to engage in true community-based advocacy.

If selected as your next Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, I would work to establish more opportunities for medical students involved in both organizations to engage in cross-organization advocacy and relationship building on an individual level. I would also use an intersectional perspective and find ways to incorporate the work of our peer organizations and MSS Standing Committees, which are engaging in similar necessary and timely advocacy. Given that identity is itself intersectional, I would like explore the possibility of establishing a Standing Committee on Intersectionality. Finally, I would like to create a forum for AMA-MSS members to share their experiences engaging with the AMA-MSS so that we may better learn how to address the needs and concerns of medical students from diverse life experiences. Having such a forum would offer members a space to contribute to the environment and sense of belonging of the MSS.

Thank you for considering me as your AMA-MSS DEI Officer. Should I be elected into this position, I will not take this responsibility lightly and will ensure it is clear how valuable each of you is to the MSS. There will be no work or advocacy done about you without you.
**Goals**

1. Establish a peer organization collaborative advocacy program
   - Connect with external affairs teams from each peer organization
   - Offer advocacy and resolution writing trainings for members of peer organization
   - Determine whether funding may be available to subsidize AMA membership costs for students for whom cost is an undue burden
   - Organize quarterly meetings with representatives from peer organizations to determine what support AMA-MSS can provide

2. Connect peer organization advocacy with MSS Standing Committee advocacy
   - Conduct a survey of peer organization about their advocacy work over the past three years
   - Find overlap between peer organization work and existing MSS policy, MSS action items, and upcoming resolutions
   - Offer meetings with peer organizations regarding overlap and what AMA-MSS can do to ensure their communities are adequately represented
   - Explore the option to establish a Standing Committee on Intersectionality in order to continue this work

3. Create forum to share feedback regarding inclusion and belonging within AMA-MSS
   - Search for and compare secure platforms through which members can offer feedback
   - Design a survey or open-ended feedback form for members to offer suggestions, present concerns, or share ideas
   - Assess feedback on a regular cadence