

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Raised in rural Montezuma, Georgia, I experienced first-hand how limited access to health care affects a family. I was heartbroken not saying goodbye to my beloved grandmother because the care she needed was forty minutes away. That pain motivated me to become a first-generation college graduate and family physician.

My mother taught me everyone needs to be treated equally and “right is right” no matter the color of your skin or where you live. Medicine can be a great equalizer. As family physicians, we’re often first to see health care’s “rights” and “wrongs.” I am a diligent listener and have learned to think before speaking. I’m proud of my ability to bring people together to recognize and solve problems. This is true with my patients and colleagues.

These skills served me well as Medical Director of two Rural Health Centers and in my current role as Physician Team Leader at the Family Medicine Clinic at Benning Martin Army Community Hospital. During my 17 years at Martin, I’ve treated patients of all backgrounds from this country and around the globe. The thread throughout my career has been addressing health equity, including disparities, social determinates of health, health literacy and culturally appropriate healthcare.

As family physicians, we are positioned to lead in these areas and must be recognized with the respect that role carries.

This is why I have been involved with the AAFP since medical school. It has been an honor to lead on important, fundamental care issues. I’ve served on the Commission on Health of the Public and Science, providing guidance on the health of the public, evidence-based clinical recommendations and care, generation of new knowledge and science with dissemination and implementation. Additionally, I chaired the Subcommittee on Health Equity, focusing on policy supporting family physicians treating patients facing barriers to care.

Many of you have worked with me. Together, we have fought the battles, celebrated achievements, and nursed wounds of disappointment. But my campaign isn’t only about past work. It’s how it prepared us for challenges ahead.

I ask for your support in my candidacy to serve the AAFP as vice speaker.