My whole life I have grown up facing microaggressions and outright racism because of the color of my skin. Unfortunately, this is not an experience exclusive to a black kid growing up in a rural community. There is racism everywhere in the world, and that is something I’ve had to come to terms with. However, it is also something I desire to change. After realizing my passion for racial justice, I found I was also passionate about healthcare.

I first became interested in the healthcare field during my freshman year of high school. Over the past few years, I have had several experiences that peaked, and later cemented, my interest in the field of nursing. One of my most memorable, was this past summer when I volunteered at The Pavilion for Women and Children, where I gained valuable insight on the process of pregnancy and birth. These opportunities helped solidify my desire for a nursing career. However, what inspires me most about this challenging yet fulfilling job, is the fact that through this career, I can make change for the issues that matter most to me. I dream of furthering my education and becoming a nurse because I believe it’s a tangible way for me to make a positive difference in the world.

Because I am a black woman, I have dealt with countless discriminatory behaviors related to both race and gender. Because of my experiences, inclusion and equality for all people and groups are values that are extremely important to me.  Historically, black women and other women of color have received inequitable healthcare treatment, particularly when it comes to labor and delivery. As you can guess, this issue sits very close to my heart. By becoming a nurse, I plan to fight for equal treatment for all.  I want to empower women of color and help them find their voice. Under no circumstances should anyone ever feel out of place or uncomfortable with the care they are receiving. I want to pursue higher education so that I am able to help break the cycle of the mistreatment of women of color in the healthcare setting.