Equality and Human Rights have always been interests of mine. I firmly believe in and support foreign aid efforts by the US to developing countries. As shown by countless studies, development can have an incredibly uplifting impact on communities across the globe. I believe I can help USAID promote development through the implementation and fostering of democracy and human rights.

In graduate school, I completed a 9-month long study on the causes of sexual violence against women in conflict zones. During the study, I found that gender inequality was positively correlated with occurrences of sexual violence during a conflict. I also have experience with health data collection. I participated in a 9-month study on low-income students’ ability to access preventive dental care in Texas. This study used numerous data sources, but most notably, Medicaid and CHIP data.

I have extensive experience with the survey process. My training during graduate school included intensive methodology and analysis courses which included survey design, implementation and analysis. In addition to my training in graduate school, I served as the deputy campaign director of a local political campaign in which I was charged with working with our political survey consultant. My task was to provide feedback on the survey modeling used to process the collected data. During this project, I helped to improve the analysis model and reduced the error range by .5%, which in a local special election is the difference between winning and losing.

Currently, I work as a Research Assistant at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (henceforth will be referred to as the Board). So far at the Board, I have participated in model creation, simulated shocks to the economy and analyzed the effects those shocks would have on the banking sector, researched countless topics on macroeconomics and macroeconomic studies as well as made policy recommendations based on my analyses.

It may seem as though economics and Human Rights, Democracy and Governance have little overlap. I argue the opposite. In my experience, the two go hand-in-hand. Development is the perfect example. By improving the economic conditions of an area, more people have more opportunities to succeed. To this point, I know that my experience with economics will help me guide the program’s efforts.

At the Board, I have also spent time improving my analytical and programming skills. I am proficient in STATA, SPSS, SAS, Splus, eViews, MatLab, OxMetrics, Linux, Visual basic for Applications, FAME, LaTeX, and Rats.

I plan to pursue a Ph.D. in Economics, Political Economy or Political Science. Serving as a fellow for USAID for up to two year would better prepare me for a top program. After my Ph.D. I plan to work on solving Human Rights issues using economics. USAID is my top choice for a career position. So, not only would I