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I am choosing to enter the health profession because of medicine's ability to give me a feeling of fervor that no other subject does. I felt that fervor while saying "good morning" to patients at the hospital where I volunteered, while wiping every child's nose, and while writing every medical terminology flashcard. As an aspiring pediatrician, I hope to gain this feeling in my work every day, and I hope to continue to absorb information about the human body and its systems -- information that has never failed to amaze me.

My choice to attend the Middlesex County Academy for Allied Health and Biomedical Sciences, a specialized school with college-level classes in anatomy and healthcare was my introduction into medicine. The idea of a field that involved building connections with others had already caught my eye, and this school provided me with the means to further explore this interest. I soon learned the trials and tribulations that physicians had to endure, but my passion had only grown stronger by then. I was engrossed in the subjects I was learning -- from a course in the dynamics of healthcare in society to a presentation on squamous cell carcinomas -- each lesson piqued my curiosity. In my sophomore year, I found and appreciated the mystery of medicine. Each patient, each disease, and each complication are its own puzzle: one that involves critical thinking and determination. With this in mind, I excelled in my rigorous medical classes and craved that sense of mystery.

My inclination for medicine was facilitated when I took my first steps into the field: as a volunteer at a nearby hospital. I formed bonds with patients as I took them from one destination to the next and cherished their excitement for someone to talk to. As I observed doctors, nurses, and various healthcare staff make a lasting impact on the lives of these patients, I soaked up every moment of the experience, hoping that one day I would have these interactions of my own.

With the joy of patient interaction, the mystery of medicine, and my thirst for knowledge still radiating, the summer before twelfth grade made my future in medicine unassailable. As I spent my summer juggling the responsibilities of teaching, feeding, and entertaining several hungry toddlers, I learned more about both them and myself. I recognized my passion and determined that the ability to give a child the opportunity to be a child would make each and every hurdle of medicine rewarding.

Now, as a first-year college student in an 8-year medical program, I am pursuing a bachelor's degree in Health Informatics. In exploring health and technology through research, clubs, and volunteering opportunities I have begun to narrow down my goals and specify my interests. By exposing myself to data science and AI as well, I learn

more and more about what the future of medicine looks like, and how technology can positively impact the field. Outside of my classes, the requirements of my 8 year program involve clinical hours, which will allow me to strengthen my communication and leadership skills. The steps I have taken thus far have allowed me to recognize my passion for this field, and I look to my future with excitement for the improvements I can make.