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I find it satisfying to have the opportunity to write a statement of purpose in this time of my life. I think back to my undergraduate work as well as continuing education efforts that required me to dig deeper, share my experience, and provide insight to why this next step is so important to me. What I'm most intrigued to find, is that the common thread that drives my daily decisions (whether strategic or the most very basic in nature) is essentially the same; what is right, what is good, and what helps others.

My mother is the inspiration to drive these thoughts. I was lucky enough to come from a single-income household that could support my mom being a homemaker. I was equally lucky enough to have a mom who was a homemaker that was devoted to spending as much time as possible teaching me to critically think about my actions and to be intentional even in the smallest tasks. It seemed miniscule as I matured but now, reaching the middle age of my career – I believe being prepared by taking the time to really think through my decisions with intent provides me with these skills to excel at helping others.

Helping others has always been my passion. Seeing the bigger picture and trying to step outside myself and my own experience is something I strive for each day. I know I can't always achieve the goal of understanding another person's experience, but I really appreciate the opportunity to listen, learn, and revisit those experiences when I attempt to make intentional decisions in the future. This has driven me to make the active choice to surround myself in a career where I interact with others who have different backgrounds than myself and push me to step into experiences that may press my boundaries and encourage me to look deeper in empathy.

I have chosen to seek graduate study in public administration to continue my understanding of our government, state systems, and how to help improve the experience of Washingtonians in the future. I have worked in private healthcare settings most of my career; helping to develop staff, patient care delivery, and the technological tools that aid professionals in providing the most patient-centered care possible. I have worked

for multiple acclaimed healthcare systems and have found that those who have the privilege and access to this level of healthcare are not those that need our focus most. Rather it is our underserved populations, typically those seeking state-based care that need our focus most. These underserved populations are truly those who don't have the privilege of regular healthcare access or that of outstanding quality.

I want outstanding healthcare quality and access to be a reality for all Washingtonians but there is so much work to do. This is why I have returned to my appointment within state service to focus on our underserved populations and improve the experience for those that aren't always in the forefront of our "bigger picture". While I believe I am well-versed in the private healthcare field, I am not as experienced when it comes to public administration, the organization of our state government, and how I can best work as a change agent to improve our futures.

I believe that the MPA program at The Evergreen State College will help me gain those skills and prepare myself to bring this educational background into me daily intent. I would not consider myself a scholar or even an ideal student. I find independent study and research to be stagnant and uninspiring. This is another reason why I am seeking The Evergreen State College to continue my education. I thrive in a collaborative, team environment. I appreciate hearing other's stories to learn from them and expand my world view. I believe that the culture and environment created by The Evergreen State College will help exemplify my advocacy skills and prepare me to continue to grow in my state service career.

My mother is still my inspiration. Her encouragement to instill in me the space and thoughtfulness to take a step back, examine my reality, and intently move forward has proven invaluable. It taught me to see beyond myself and understand how lucky I am for so many privileges in my life. I feel it is my responsibility to use that privilege to make Washington better for us all but in order to inspire meaningful change, I need to understand the bigger picture of the environment I am working in on a daily basis. I believe completing my MPA at The Evergreen State College will do just that. My intention to move forward into this field and seek further knowledge to better myself is strong and I am excited to see what experiences, adventures, and growth will follow.