

Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair McLain, and members of the committee,

My name is Lili Bornio Carrillo and I am part of the Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative (SHOI). SHOI is an OHSU program that offers full tuition and fees to a select number of students in exchange for at least five years of medical service in a rural or underserved part of Oregon.

I emigrated from Mexico to the United States in second grade, not knowing any English. Raised in a low-income, single parent, Spanish-speaking household, I overcame challenges children shouldn't face. As a member of an ethnic minority, I have been exposed to situations that allow me to understand the challenges facing individuals in marginalized groups and empathize when caring for them. I feel a strong sense of obligation to serve marginalized communities and at-risk populations. This is why when I interviewed at the OHSU PA program and learned about SHOI, I immediately knew that this is where my future would take me. As a part of SHOI, I am fortunate enough to receive the necessary funding to obtain a Masters in Physician Assistant Studies at one of the top ten programs in the nation and accomplish my goal to providing healthcare services to underserved populations in the beloved state that healed me when I emigrated to the United States. My areas of interest include preventative medicine, mental health and longevity. I find it the most rewarding to motivate others to make positive changes in areas that impact their health and, therefore, their life. I envision working with a high proportion of patients that are Hispanic/Latino, reflecting my background and culture. In particular, I hope to work in pediatrics and mental health as that is the inception of where preventative care can commence.

Rural and underserved areas lack access to care, and without the SHOI program, it would be nearly impossible for underpopulated and underserved areas to attract talented doctors. Coupled with the cost of medical school and the sometimes lower pay in these areas, taking jobs in rural or underserved areas without financial assistance would result in significant debt for providers.

There are hundreds of qualified Oregonians who are willing to serve in rural and underserved Oregon, but if the funding for SHOI is cut, then we know that these areas of our state will feel the effects. As we begin our road to recovery from the pandemic, we cannot afford to leave underserved populations behind.

We urge you to fully fund the Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative so we can continue to serve some of the communities that need it the most.

Sincerely,

Lili Bornio Carrillo, PA-S
Graduation Year 2022