

RESEARCH STATEMENT MONICA MOSES, PH.D. CANDIDATE OF ECONOMICS
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I am an applied microeconomist who does research within the fields of health and education economics. I have additional work within the realm of behavioral economics that contributes knowledge and theory to my primary line of research focused around the allocation of healthcare and education and the contributing effects to wellbeing. I am currently funded in addition to my main institution of West Virginia University for my research through George Mason University's Mercatus Center as a Frédéric Bastiat fellow; where the aim is to introduce the Austrian, Virginia, and Bloomington schools of political economy as an academic foundation for contemporary policy analysis and policy-relevant academic research. Past and current work of mine explores the determinants and effects of educational attainment and health within a variety of different institutional and policy settings. My future research agenda aims to continue better understanding the mechanisms through which individuals reap positive health and education benefits from public policy; and further identify which characteristics and populations of our health and education systems are most vulnerable to inefficiencies and inequalities. My research contributions can be broken down into two categories:

Firstly, my research lends to an overall better evaluation and understanding of the issues posed in healthcare and education that are leading to undesirable outcomes and/or preventing effective policy implementation. My research has a keen interest on the barriers that exist that prevent allocation of healthcare or education, particularly in high-risk and marginalized groups. Furthermore, including behavioral economics research into my work has proven useful in investigating the mechanisms of undesirable health and education outcomes. Specific examples of healthcare and education policy evaluation research projects include: accessibility to emergency contraceptives in the US, a published literature review on the determinants of sport participation and physical activity, and institutional changes within charter schools related to the longevity and quality of schools.

Secondly, my research further analyzes the population effects of healthcare and education policy and institutions. Specific research projects demonstrating the analysis of effects include: causal evidence of positive institutional spillovers in the higher education system in the US; modelling p-EBT state benefits relating educational attainment and student well-being to increases in aid; and changes in the institutional operations of charter schools impact on longevity and effectiveness.

Both streams of research contribute to the overarching theme of my research agenda regarding the determinants and effects of education and health, additionally these research streams contribute to the ongoing theme of analyzing the mechanisms through which the effects of healthcare and education allocation are felt at the individual and household level.

This research is not only important to the literature itself, but to myself personally as a health and education economist. My work surrounding the well-being of individuals and equitable allocation of healthcare and education is vital not only to this literature and to those with interests in the fields, but something I've personally felt passionate about since the earliest days of my research career.

In the vein of education, starting in my undergraduate work with a thesis on the effectiveness of charter schools particularly in urban areas and following into my graduate studies with my main dissertation looking at the social, health, and economic effects of higher education institutions, I have expressed continued interest and passion for the study of education economics. Education has always been and remains to be one of the main tenets for advancement in societies throughout history, a mechanism for the betterment and improvement of health and well-being; a tool that should be accessible to all individuals who strive for an education and want to positively contribute to society. This stem of research has many valuable uses and contributions to explaining and understanding society as a whole.

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Additionally, exploring the determinants of health and how to maximize well-being for individuals is a research topic that has personal implications in everyday lives as well as the impact to help educate and necessitate effective policy setting. I feel my research strongly reflects this message of how important health research and ensuring equitable accessibility to healthcare is.

Moreover, there is a large cross section between health and education within the research I conduct and many reasons for why it's important. This cross-section can be seen in projects of mine such as the effects of different education and welfare policies on well-being of students, and how education spillovers can encourage positive health benefits. Overall, it's safe to argue why health and education, not only individually, but also combined is a valuable and worthwhile line of research for governments, policymakers, industry and firms, academics, and other researchers alike to continue studying.

My research capabilities are valuable in many ways, but can mostly be summarized and reflected by the following strengths:

Policy analysis

Institutional analysis

Causal analysis

Econometric and empirical knowledge

Literature capabilities in a diverse range of fields bringing together knowledge from multiple sciences with the same main objective

Basic understanding of political economy and public economics

Coauthoring and creating research networks

I look forward to utilizing these developed and acquired research skills shown above at an institution where the overall work contributes to improving the health, educational attainment, and well-being of individuals; and where the research supports the institutions and policies that have positive and well-researched effects.

Yours Sincerely,

Monica Moses