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Bountiful High

### What Drives Me?

I love driving. I love the feeling of freedom I get when I'm behind the wheel and how I feel in control about where I am headed. It is easier for me to know that I have a solid plan with a destination when I'm following a map or being directed where to go. As I have grown up it has been difficult for me to be satisfied with my life when I see some freedoms from which myself and others are excluded.

During my junior year, I participated in a program called Girls Lobby. The founders of Girls Lobby recognized the need for more female participation in all levels of government. Increased representation of women in government will improve outcomes for women in society whose impact has been lessened by a male-dominated representation in government. The Girls Lobby founders created a curriculum that engages high school girls in local government by teaching them how to lobby for bills and make connections with civic engagement pipelines. Being a part of this program helped me to see how my voice can make a difference and how important it is for each individual to be involved in creating change. Last year, my cohort focused on lobbying for legislation that provided support for victims of sexual assault. From this experience, I learned the power of my own voice.

During my senior year, my friend and I brought the program to Bountiful High and started a Girls Lobby chapter. The focus of this club is to help girls specifically at our high school learn how the legislative process works and how they can articulate their opinions and engage in the legislative process to create change. In the beginning, it was hard to get girls involved and help them understand the importance of using their voice to instigate change for women. This experience as a co-president and founder of the Bountiful High chapter of Girls Lobby has taught me how to identify avenues of change for issues of which I am passionate, especially gender equality.

I plan to continue my activism through a career of helping others be heard and supported. This fall, I will be attending the University of Utah as a pre-social work major. My experience with Girls Lobby has helped me define my future career path. I hope to work with marginalized individuals in our society helping them find their voice and supporting them in their individual challenges. I look forward to continuing my passion throughout my life both at work and in the community. I am driven in my life to create change by using my voice to help others get the freedoms they deserve.