

**Statement**  
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**Student**  
**Snow College, Utah**  
**66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women**  
**Parallel event**  
***“Inclusive Student Engaged Learning Model to Empower Mountain Women Globally”***  
**March 21, 2022**

We would like to thank the UN Commission on the Status of Women and our partner NGOs for allowing us to speak at this highest global gender-focused forum.

I address you on behalf of Snow College, my peers Phillip Johnson, Ethan Wilks, and Erik Ingwersen, and all of those who are fighting for the same cause of rural health care assistance, its correlation to the impact of climate change, and the power women and students have to make a change.

Health care services, of all kinds, are greatly limited when it comes to rural mountain regions. From a small mountainous town like Ephraim to mountain regions in my home country of Argentina, the lack of healthcare accessibility, infrastructure, investment, and professional care has been affecting the lives of millions of people, decreasing their overall quality of life. Disasters due to climate change including floodings, haze inversion, droughts, forest fires, etc, are further exacerbating the deterioration of the health of the mountain region’s citizens.

In Sanpete county, Utah, and Argentina over 7% of babies are born with low birth health, with air pollution increasing the risk. Infants who are having complications must be sent away to larger hospitals, separating the mother and child. According to the World Health Organization, this has been shown to decrease the quality of care given to small and sick newborns, resulting in unnecessary suffering and deaths. Skin-to-skin contact between mother and baby has shown to reduce

infant deaths by as much as 40%, hypothermia by more than 70%, and severe infections by 65%.

But how can students from this little college town make a difference? By proposing solutions. Through student-engaged learning, students are empowered and can begin to raise awareness of such healthcare challenges in rural mountain regions. We are confident that a difference can be made for our communities. Students have a voice, and our message is loud and clear. We are not looking for a couple more doctors or a small amount of investment, that is just enough to add more materials in a hospital; we are looking for actual changes and it begins with us. We urge the Commission to provide mountain regions with the attention, time, and importance they deserve.