

LAURA
LÓPEZ JAUREGUI
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DMD

LETTER OF INTENT...

City of Santa Fe – Dear Members of the Immigration Committee,

My name is Laura Lopez Jauregui, and I am writing to express my sincere interest in serving as a volunteer member of the Immigration Committee for the City of Santa Fe. As a 38-year-old Latina woman, an immigrant from Teocaltiche, Jalisco, México, and a proud resident of Santa Fe, I am deeply committed to advocating for and supporting our immigrant community.

My journey to this point has been shaped by resilience, sacrifice, and gratitude. I earned my Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from the Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes in 2011, followed by a degree in Orthodontics from the Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara in 2014. It was during that time that I met my husband, a Santa Fe native and Family Medicine doctor. We married in 2015 and moved to the United States shortly thereafter. Relocating to a new country meant leaving behind not just my homeland, family, and friends, but also the professional career I had worked so hard to build. Without a work permit for the first six months and unable to practice dentistry in the U.S., I was faced with a difficult transition. However, I chose to embrace the journey rather than be discouraged by it.

In 2017, I was given the opportunity to work as a dental assistant at La Familia Health here in Santa Fe, where I began to reconnect with my passion and purpose. With the support of incredible mentors, I was accepted into Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in Boston as part of the International Student Class of 2020. During my time there, I was proud to be on the Dean's List, serve as a Teaching Assistant, and actively participate in student organizations that support underserved communities, including the Hispanic Dental Student Association and the Hispanic International Mission.

After a few years practicing in California, my family and I were grateful to return home to New Mexico in 2023. Today, I work in public health dentistry, continuing the mission of giving back to the community that welcomed and supported me. Each day, I have the privilege of serving a large immigrant population, many of whom face the same challenges I once did.

Serving on the Immigration Committee would be an honor. As an immigrant myself, I bring both personal insight and professional experience to the table. I understand the barriers that many in our community face—whether legal, economic, or emotional—and I am passionate about ensuring that immigrant voices are heard, respected, and represented in meaningful ways.

Santa Fe has given me the opportunity to rebuild my life and career, and I am ready to give back in a more active civic role. I would be deeply honored to serve on the Immigration Committee and to work alongside others who share the commitment to equity, dignity, and inclusion for all.

Thank you for considering my application. I welcome the opportunity to contribute my experiences, skills, and dedication to this important work.

Warm regards,
Laura Lopez Jauregui

