

Good afternoon members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Brissia Rodriguez Reyes. I am a student at Classical high school, and a project leader and Board Director of Young Voices. I am here in support of Bill H5976 providing \$4 million to support after-school and school vacation, summer learning workforce development programs for K-12 students with annual reports on status and programs.

This bill would provide a lot of support for afterschool programs, which have helped me advocate for the things that I care about such as healthy meals for all and students rights. My youth program for example has encouraged me to speak out and speak loud on issues that I feel should have a light shown onto them and be solved without problem. They go out of their way every single day to make sure not only I feel comfortable but others in the space as well. Young Voices are a second home to me, not to mention a safe haven to my companions. My entire life I have had after school programs and they have helped me form the person that I am today, because of them I am inspired to continue being the best version of myself.

Because of my youth program I've gotten opportunities such as being able to travel to Nevada and Washington DC, I've gotten the chance to be a research partner, and be able to financially support myself. It is critical that we invest in out-of-school time so that every student has access to comprehensive and effective programming during afterschool and summer learning that encourages them to be the best they can be just like Young Voices has for me.

I truly hope you consider how important this is to me. We are depending on you to make the right decision.

Thank you for your time and attention today.

Brissia Rodriguez Reyes

