

Dear Members of the House of Finance,

My name is Luvie Benavides and I am a student at Central High School as well as a member of Young Voices. I am here in support of House Bill 5976, which provides \$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.

After School programs are important to me because I often use my after school program, Young Voices, as a third space. Young Voices for me is a safe space away from home or school. Young Voices has helped me so much to grow as a person and has educated me in more ways than school has. I know some of my peers heavily rely on their after school programs for resources that are not provided within school. Most of the after school programs I know of help out so many students to help them grow as a person and spread their wings. If the after school funding were to get cut down so many students including myself would be upset to see their 3rd spaces disappear.

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

I really 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.  
Luvie Benavides

