

Dear Members of the House of Finance,

My name is Meredith Bello and I am a student at Dr. Jorge Alvarez 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 have a safe space to go to after school. It has given me many social skills that I need in my day to day life. They offer us food and have us do fun activities and for younger youth it's very beneficial for working parents that don't get out of work until later. I have made many loving friends that I hold very dearly. The activities they have us do helps many youth find their interests and helps us network.

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.  
Meredith Bello

