

Hello,

My name is Nora Phou and I am writing this testimony in support of H7397/S2555.

I like to tell folks that I speak three and half languages (poorly). All joking aside, this is true. Two of them are heritage languages that I learned from my family, and the half-language is rudimentary high school level Spanish.

Multilingualism and literacy means more to me than just economic access, more than an elective credit for students. Language access for all individuals beyond what is learned in the home can be critically supportive in cognitive development, cultural competency, and more.

The Support and Access to Bilingual Education Act helps address the teacher shortage by removing financial barriers for qualified bilingual educators and by expanding access to high-quality bilingual and dual-language programs for all students.

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Sincerely,

Nora Phou