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SB-620 General Provisions - Commemorative Days Pongal Day /January as Tamil Heritage Month

Position: Support

March 5th, 2020

I am Grace Pushparany Williams, from Bowie in Prince Georges County and I support SB 620. I have been a Tamil American for the last 42 years and a proud Marylander for 32 years. It's with honor and privilege that I submit this testimony in support of SB 620 to Commemorate January 14th as Pongal day and January as Tamil Heritage Month in Maryland.

Pongal Day is the Thanksgiving Day for Tamils and celebrated as the Harvest festival. Pongal falls on the First day of Tamil New Year Calendar, Month of Thai(January) which is the 14th day of January. Pongal means '**boiling over**' in Tamil and it is also the sweet food made with rice, green gram lentils, all natural sugar, milk, cashew nuts, raisins and cardamom for flavoring. It's shared with family, friends and neighbors. Pongal is a non religious celebration and celebrated regardless of their religious affiliation.

It's celebrated by about 74 Million Tamils all over the world, who speak the Tamil language, which is the Oldest and one of the seven Classical languages of the world. Tamils live mostly in the state of Tamil Nadu in South India, other countries such as Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia, South Africa, Mauritius, Burma, Canada, UK and Europe.

On this Pongal Day and Tamil heritage Month, the richness of Tamil Culture and historical traditions are symbolized. The Tamil Americans/Marylanders help to preserve this very ancient rich culture and traditions by celebrating Pongal and Tamil Heritage. It also gives us the emotional link to our homelands and Tamils all around the world.

I humbly request you to support Senate Bill 620

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Pushparany Williams.