

Supriya ghimire  
16 year old high school senior  
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Harry Bhandari  
House bill 676 Written Testimony

Good afternoon members of the Health & Government Operations Committee, my name is supriya ghimire I am 16 year high school senior and I will be speaking on behalf of the non resident Nepali association I am here today to testify in regards to House bill 676: General Provisions - Commemorative Days - Dashain Day.

Dashain is known as a Holiday commonly celebrated upon The Nepali community. The main idea of Dashain is to celebrate the victory of good over evil. Being the first state to acknowledge dashain would be a huge leap towards equality. This not only would benefit the Nepali community allowing them to celebrate their holiday freely but it would also allow Maryland to be seen as a state who cares about the voice of their minority groups.

Being a 16 year old Nepali female who has been in the American school system for nearly 13 years. I noticed a couple things after migrating to America. I noticed, that being exposed mainly to a culture outside of my own at such a young age slowly caused me to lose my true identity and even it decreased the knowledge I possessed about my own culture.

The holidays in Nepal are not taught about very much by our school system. I mean, I personally never went to school on Dashain but it only resulted in me missing out on my education and falling behind all the other children.

The diversity in Maryland is truly astonishing seeing the beauty of every culture come together in order to create a community. We as America need to strive to be a country that respects all holidays and accepts the importance of cultures everywhere. In order to spread equality upon the rest of the country we need to start somewhere and where else to start than here?