

Dear members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Jordan Didion-Martinez, I am twelve years old and live in Baltimore City. Mom told me about a bill that would help other kids improve their Spanish while they are learning English. I want to make sure you know how important it is for this bill to pass.

I was a student at Archbishop Borders School, the only dual language immersion Catholic school in the state, from K to Fifth grade. I asked my parents why they enrolled me there; they gave me two reasons:

1. Spanish is my first language, my parents wanted to make sure I could communicate with my teachers because I was only five when I started school.
2. My parents wanted to make sure I wouldn't lose my Spanish; they also wanted me to learn to read and write in Spanish.

I am glad they did. I am now able to easily communicate with people who only speak Spanish, I interpret for my grandma and grandad sometimes. I like to surprise my classmates when we are out, and I can order food in another language. I like to read books in Spanish, my favorite is called El Principito (The Little Prince).

When I started sixth grade, I was asked if I had a superpower what would I like it to be: I want my superpower to be knowing all the languages! Since superpowers are not really a thing, all I can do for now is create one for me. Since I am fluent in Spanish, I was given the option to start learning a new language, so I decided to do that. I am learning Mandarin. I am the top student in my class and my teacher believes I can quickly learn a new language because of all the years I spent in a dual language school.

I want to be a therapist when I grow up, I want to continue to learn Spanish and Mandaring so that one day I will be able to help three times as many people! I would love for more kids to have this superpower. I have cousins who no longer speak Spanish, some of them cannot even speak with our grandparents. If this bill passes you will be helping more kids like me. I hope you read my letter and that you will vote yes on the Multilingualism is an asset bill.

Gracias/ Thank you/谢谢你

Jordan Didion-Martinez

7th grade Student at Notre Dame Preparatory School