

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 906

March 12, 2020 \* Health and Government Operations Committee

Dear Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Peña-Melnyk, and Committee Members,

Hello, My name is Ananya Sundararajan and I am a 13 year old 7th grader studying in Howard County, Dunloggin middle school. I love Geography and Business Management. I love traveling around the World and explore new places. I am a south Indian classical dancer and a violinist and performed more than 40 different places and in Fox 45 also. I have played violin in many competitions and played against many other schools.

I am here to submit my testimony in support of commemorating January 14th as Pongal day and January as Tamil heritage month in Maryland. Pongal falls on the first day of Tamil month 'Thai' which is the 14th day of January. It is celebrated by about 74 million Tamil people all over the world. Pongal is basically a 'Thanks Giving Day' for all tamilians. Our thanks to nature for giving sunlight, rain to help farmers for growing paddy and feed the whole world with food. In my grandpa's house they use to honor the farmers with gifts and fragrant flower garlands and new clothing. Same way the cattle are also honored as they play major role in growing rice crops. I feel so proud about my Tamil heritage and what a best way to celebrate and honor the essential of our life! I would love to spread this among Tamil Americans/ Marylanders to help preserve this ancient rich culture and traditions by celebrating Pongal and Tamil Heritage.

In school there are many heritages like Black History Month, Hispanic Heritage, and many more, but I'm yet to see a Tamil Heritage. I honestly think that there should be a month where it's about the Tamil culture and how we celebrate and what we do. I believe that many people will get to know about the Tamil culture. It also gives us emotional links to our homelands and makes us feel proud about our Tamil culture and tradition.

I humbly request you to support Tamil Heritage Month and Thank you.

We ask for a favorable report on HB 906.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME: Ananya Sundararajan

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Ellicottcity

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YOUR ORGANIZATION

Washington Tamil Sangam Member