

Supriya Ghimire  
17-year-old college freshman  
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Harry Bhandari Senate Bill 0470 Written Testimony

Good afternoon members of the Education Health & Environmental Affairs Committee, my name is Supriya Ghimire. I am a 17-year-old College freshman currently in my second semester at Mount St. Mary's University. I will be speaking on behalf of the non-resident Nepali association I am here today to present my testimony regarding senate bill 0470 with the agenda to promote South Asian culture and officially declare October 5<sup>th</sup> as 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 proudly, but it would also allow Maryland to be seen as a state who cares about the voice of their minority groups

Often, I'm asked, "Hey where are you from" to which I reply, "Nepal, it's a small country in South Asia". Other than being known for mount Everest, Nepal isn't very commonly talked about. It baffles me to see the lack of knowledge our society possess about my county.

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. For us to spread equality upon the rest of the country we need to start somewhere, so why don't we start here?