



*To the Education Committee,*

*My name is Esmeralda Barrera, I am an education coordinator for the Adelante Mujeres Preschool Promise program. I have worked in early education for about 8 to 9 years. I truly believe that providing culturally responsive summer learning and after-school programs will support our families and children in transiting to school in the fall, without the children regressing.*

*It's known that lower-income students experience greater setbacks over the summer compared to other students who have more resources. Providing services in the summer can help these students have opportunities to reach their goals instead of restarting because they continue to get the high-quality program during the summer which offers opportunities for social, emotional, and academic growth.*

*I also think that parents and families have more time to build stronger relationships with their teachers. This helps sustain confidence, a positive attitude, and success in the school because families who are involved in their student education are more connected to implementing the same activities at home during the summer.*

*I ask you to support SB 531 Investment in Community-Based, Culturally Responsive Summer Learning and Afterschool programs.*

*Thank you for reading my testimony and feel free to reach out to me with any further info needed.*

*Esmeralda Barrera*

*ECE Coordinator*

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