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Date: 5/19/2022

To: ASHC Elections Committee

From:

Emily Fung

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Subject: Letter of Endorsement for Mahad Dahir

I. RELATIONSHIP

Extracurricular Educator to student

II. FOCUS OF CANDIDATE'S WORK

Mahad's main area of interest has been around HB1153, our language access bill. This bill focuses on making language supports more available to English Learner families in Washington's K-12 school system. Additionally, in our Self-Advocacy Leadership Training (SALT), Mahad has participated in and led discussions about how to create systematic change for multicultural people with disabilities.

III. IMPACT OF THEIR WORK

The impact of Mahad's work has been enormous. He has testified in the Washington State Legislature about the importance of language access to immigrant and refugee communities; his words, along with those of other advocates, helped ensure the bill's passing in March 2022. Mahad has also been a role model for his peers with disabilities, showing others how and when to speak up on behalf of their own self-interests in a meaningful and compassionate way.

IV. OTHER INFORMATION

Mahad has been described by his peers as a "defender of human rights". He takes a strong interest in injustices committed around the world, and feels a sense of responsibility to act when others are in need. He also volunteers with OneAmerica to support immigrant issues, and is an active member in the local Muslim community in his personal life.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Fung". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "E" and "F".

Emily Fung

Advocacy Coordinator | Open Doors for Multicultural Families