

Mai-Nhanh Dao  
734 S Chateau Cir  
Wichita KS 67207  
(316) 803-4302  
[mai-nhanh.dao@ks.gov](mailto:mai-nhanh.dao@ks.gov)  
February 16, 2022

My name is Mai-Nhanh Dao and I am a junior at Newman University based in Wichita Kansas. I am currently majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies with the concentration of Spanish, Political Science, and Economics. One organization I am representing is the Wichita State University's Thai, Laos, and Cambodian Association. The Thai, Lao, and Cambodian Association (TLC) is a recognized student organization at Wichita State University that brings awareness about current events of Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia as well as the culture and history of those three countries. Within this student organization, I hold the role of Cultural Chair and am responsible of invoking cultural engagement within the organization as well as obtaining the role of the Miss Cambodia Wichita Pageant's Executive Director. The Miss Cambodia Wichita Pageant is a cultural scholarship pageant that aims to empower young women to be a patron of goodwill, a trendsetter for leadership, and an ambassador for beauty and cultural diversity within Wichita. As a Cambodian myself, I get the opportunity to further promote and learn the culture and history of my heritage which I love. I can engage the Wichita community and others outside of my heritage, in learning more about my heritage with me!

Beyond TLC and the Pageant, I am also part of Wichita Asian Association, Asian Student Association of Newman University, Asian Student Conference of Wichita State University, Vietnamese Student Association of Wichita State University, Miss Wichita Asian Festival, and the Robam Munivongsa Dance Troupe.

I am testifying in favor of HB2113 — establishing the advisory commission on Asian-American Pacific Islander Affairs Commission and ask you to vote yes on HB21113.

Currently, I am an intern for the Kansas Hispanic and Latino American Affairs Commission (KHLAAC). Prior to joining this position, I explored if there were any other Commissions with minority representation. There were a few commissions that exist that do represent a few minority groups, but I did not see a commission that represented a minority group that I identify as - Asian American. I was surprised that there was not a commission that represented Asian American.

As a college student in Wichita, we have quite a large number of Asian associations and organizations that I am a part of. There is also a large number of Asian and Asian Americans that

resides in Wichita, Kansas. To name a few, here are a few Asian Organizations and Associations in Wichita.

Wichita Asian Association

National Association of Asian American Professionals of Wichita

Asian Student Association of Newman University

Asian Student Conference of Wichita State University

Thai, Lao, and Cambodian Association of Wichita State University

Vietnamese Student Association of Wichita State University

Miss Cambodia Wichita Pageant

Miss Vietnam Wichita Pageant

Miss Laos New Years Wichita, KS

Miss Wichita Asian Festival

Robam Munivongsa Cambodian Dance Troupe

Cultural Association of India - Wichita

Wichita Chinese Association

Wichita Chinese School

Filipinos of Greater Wichita

And many more Asian religious groups

With the handful number of Asian associations and organizations that already exist in Wichita, I cannot imagine the additional number outside of Wichita. Having an Asian American Commission on Kansas will allow these voices to be heard and represented.

As a young Asian American woman that wants to help other minorities to be represented, I should also be able to help represent my own identity as well. I hope this letter finds you well and vote yes on HB2113 — establishing the advisory commission on Asian-American Pacific Islander Affairs Commission.

I thank you for your time and consideration,

Mai-Nhanh Dao