

Dear Senator,

I hope this letter finds you well.

My name is Julie Wei, and I am currently pursuing a K-6 teaching license with a focus on the Dual Language and Immersion. I am honored to be a recipient of the Minnesota Aspiring Teachers of Color Scholarship. This scholarship means so much to me and my family.

For the past 10 years, I have been a stay-at-home mother to 3 young children. I've always dreamed of becoming a bilingual teacher. My husband, who has been a dedicated teacher for 15 years. Teaching was his dream job. However, last year, he quit his teaching job to start a small business, hoping it would help our family financially. Now he works over 70 hours a week, but we are still struggling.

I grew up in a place where boys were favored over girls. Because of this, as a girl, I didn't deserve the opportunity to go to high school. However, that didn't stop me from pursuing my education. Moreover, growing up in a violent household with an alcoholic father, life wasn't easy. My teachers guided me through those dark times. They brought me light and hope. I want to be a teacher like them.

I believe education brings hope. I believe teaching is about sharing who I am. No matter how hard life gets, there is always another way forward. I have a passion for becoming a teacher who can inspire and support students in their life journeys. I sincerely ask for your support in helping me achieve this dream, for myself, my family, and my future students.

Sincerely,

Julie Wei

Student - M.Ed K-6 licensure with focus on Dual Language and Immersion
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