

June 2

Dear Mr. O Connell:

My name is Josué, and I am in 5th grade at Melrose Elementary School in Oakland, CA. I am 10 years old. I am writing to you to talk about a problem I am studying, and I think it's a big problem for immigrants. The problem is that in schools immigrants can only speak English not their first language. This is a problem for immigrants because they might not know how to speak English, and they wouldn't be able communicate with others. I think you should let students speak their first language, and make bilingual classes. How would you feel if you couldn't speak your first language?

You should eliminate that law and let immigrants speak their first language. They came to have a better life. If they can't communicate in school, they won't understand their teacher. Furthermore, they won't learn. For example, when my mom came to the United States, in school she didn't understand her teacher because she didn't know how to speak English. Her school was English not Bilingual. If the immigrant doesn't learn, they won't be able to have a good life when they are older. If you keep them from speaking their first language, you are keeping them from learning.

Another reason you should change the law is that if immigrants can't speak their first language, they won't feel safe in the United States. If they don't feel safe in the schools, they will not come to school. However, this is a problem for immigrants, and for the school. It's a problem because if they don't go to school, they won't learn how to read, write, or do math. For example, my uncle can't read because, he didn't come to school when he was scared. Also, it's a problem for schools because, if people don't come to school for no reason the school doesn't paid.

The last reason I will write about is if immigrants can't speak their first language, they won't have a good job when they are adults. Because immigrants didn't

learn in school, they won't get paid well in their job. If the immigrant has a family, and he/she doesn't have a good job, they won't be able to buy food, toys for their kids, pay bills or even buy a house! For example, my friend's uncle didn't have a job, and he couldn't buy food because he didn't learn in school. How would you feel if you couldn't support your family.

Now you see that it is a big problem for immigrants not to speak their first language. In the future, I hope you let immigrants speak their first language in school. Thank you for reading my letter.

Sincerely,

Josué