

**Testimony of
SHAUNA KAPLAN
5th Grade Student**

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**Before the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee
Subcommittee on the Oversight of Government Management, the Federal
Workforce, and the District of Columbia**

**“A National Security Crisis: Foreign Language Capabilities in the Federal
Government”**

May 21, 2012

Dà jiā hǎo, wǒ jiào Shāng Nà. Wǒ shí yī suì, wǒ shàng Providence xiǎo xué wǔ nián jí. Wǒ zuì xǐ huān shàng zhōng wén kè, yīn wèi shàng zhōng wén kè hěn hǎo wán.

I just said in Chinese: Hello everyone. My name is Shauna. I am eleven years old. I am in 5th grade at Providence Elementary School. I like Chinese class very much because Chinese class is fun.

I have been taking Chinese since the 1st grade, which was the first year it was taught at my school. My Chinese teacher is Ms. Yuan, who has been my teacher all five years. There is a second Chinese teacher at my school, Ms. Su, who is teaching my little sister.

I really like learning Chinese. Class is a lot of fun because we learn using a lot of games and activities that include everyone in the class and teach us new things. My regular teacher, Mrs. Pratt, told me she works with Ms. Yuan so that sometimes they are teaching about the same things at the same time. This year, when we learned about ancient civilizations in Mrs. Pratt's class, Ms. Yuan taught us about ancient China and different dynasties while we were learning Chinese. It's cool that they go together. Sometimes we even do math in Chinese.

I want to keep learning Chinese. I want to be fluent in Chinese. I would like to visit China, and I want to be able to talk to the people there. I also like showing people in Virginia how I have learned Chinese, like when I count in Chinese the number of things we ate at my favorite dim sum restaurant. The people working there were very surprised that I could count in Chinese.

Thank you for helping Fairfax have Chinese classes. I also want to thank Ms. Yuan for being such a great teacher, all the people who help her, and my mom and dad who encourage me to learn Chinese and to work hard in school, and even my sisters who also got to take Chinese. I am very excited to be here representing them, all of Providence Elementary School, and Fairfax City.

Xiè xiè dà jiā. Wǒ jīn tiān hěn gāo xìng néng hé dà jiā shuō yī xiē zhōng wén. Xué zhōng wén bù nán, nǐ yě kěyǐ xué zhōng wén.

That means: thank you everyone. I am happy to speak some Chinese today. Learning Chinese is not hard. You also can learn Chinese.