

**Friis, John**

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**From:** zoe benedict [zoebenedict@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 07, 2009 9:29 AM  
**To:** Friis, John  
**Subject:** Fwd: FW: Hearing on Monday, testimony needed

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** zoe benedict <zoebenedict@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Fri, Mar 6, 2009 at 1:34 PM  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Hearing on Monday, testimony needed  
**To:** "DEFUR, KAREN" <KAREN.DEFUR@new-haven.k12.ct.us>  
**Cc:** [Jaya.Vijayasekar@vernonct.org](mailto:Jaya.Vijayasekar@vernonct.org)

Dear Members of the Education Committee

I am writing in support of Bill 945. I am a high school Spanish teacher, newly returned to the United States from Spain. I lived and taught English in Spain for five years. Until recently, Spain was considered the "third world country" of Europe. The reason Spain developed so rapidly is that it opened its frontiers to the global economy and in order to do so, made a second language a requirement in its schools. Spanish children learn a second, and sometimes a third, language from the age of three. By the time they are adolescents, they are able to converse freely on a variety of topics, including politics, culture and history. If we expect to improve our economy we must look to the future and the world at large, and therefore improve our World Language system, rather than eliminating the requirement. If history and Franco's occupation of Spain have taught us anything, it is that by turning inward and cutting ourselves off from the world at large, it is we who become the "third world nation"

Thank you,

Zoe Benedict

Spanish Teacher

Amistad Academy Elm City

On Fri, Mar 6, 2009 at 11:55 AM, DEFUR, KAREN <[KAREN.DEFUR@new-haven.k12.ct.us](mailto:KAREN.DEFUR@new-haven.k12.ct.us)> wrote: