

Dear Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleischmann and members of the Education Committee,

My name is Kavitha Vijayasekar and I am a junior at Glastonbury High School. I am writing in support of proposed Bill #945, an Act Concerning World Language Requirements.

I consider myself lucky because the study of world languages is a given at my high school. I've come to realize that not all in Connecticut are that lucky. I had to stop and think about this: reading literature in the original text, interacting with students from other countries, comparing Spanish and English, singing in another language...? These are not experiences that all students in Connecticut are able to have? I would hope that this bill and the requirement will change this situation and provide opportunities for all students.

Language learning also promotes confidence. One of the neatest experiences I have had was to co-teach Tamil, our native language with my mom at the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in N.Y. City. I felt more comfortable sharing my heritage language because I always enjoyed my Spanish and Latin classes and felt confident that I could teach a language to others.

As I hear my mom tirelessly fighting for this requirement, I am amazed that people actually need convincing. Face book being one of my preferred means of communication, I posted the petition site on my page encouraging my friends to sign the petition. Three years ago my mom and I went to Washington D.C. to lobby our congressmen and senators for their support for world languages.

I respectfully urge you to support this bill which will stress the importance of world languages and world cultures. I think



knowing other languages increases our respect for other people and makes it easier for us to promote world peace.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kavitha Vijayasekar