

Friis, John

From: KA Morrow [katherine.morrow@huskymail.uconn.edu]
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 9:47 AM
To: Friis, John
Subject: Bill 945

Dear Senator Gaffey and the members of the Education Committee, I am a senior at Edwin O. Smith High School and have been studying French for the last six years. In that time I have found that learning a new language expands one's view far beyond that of the typical American. The world is becoming more homogenized due to new methods of communication and transit, causing people who would never meet to come in contact with each other. Far too often people of different nationalities meet and create conflict because people have no basis for acceptance of the "other". The study of language involves the examination of another culture, another view of the world. That investigation means that people can discover the world to be rich and expansive without the fear that comes with being thrown into a completely alien situation. I have had the opportunity to travel abroad with my high school and I admit that for my first trip to France I was apprehensive despite my then four years of study (though certainly less so than if I had not had the class experience I did).

However, the positive experience I had there prompted me to go to Costa Rica when I had the chance the next year, despite the fact that I had not had a Spanish class in five years. I would never have dared to do such a thing if I had never taken a language course. As such, I feel that the inclusion of a language requirement will create a better world for everyone among us.

Sincerely,
Katherine Morrow