

**Friis, John**

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**From:** celepepper@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 23, 2009 8:49 AM  
**To:** Friis, John  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of bill 945

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

My name is Lacey LaHaie and I am a sophomore at the University of Connecticut. I am writing in support of proposed bill #945, an Act Concerning World Language Requirements. For me, a FL requirement could be the difference between getting a full time job after graduation and settling with a part time job. I'm a French Education major at the University of Connecticut. Teaching and languages has been my life since high school, where I taught French after school at elementary schools. The French I learned in middle school and high school inspired me to dedicate my life to teaching foreign languages. I cannot express how vital languages are with the globalized economy we have today. The benefits of learning languages go beyond foreign relations and traveling. Science has proven that learning a language will increase the brain's functioning in other learning areas. Even students who do not continue to study languages can benefit from what they learned in high school. One never knows when they will encounter someone who does not speak English. Further, many universities have a foreign language requirement. Students required to learn a foreign language in high school are better prepared for college. Without this high school requirement, students may be less likely to be accepted into universities and colleges.

I'm currently in Paris, France studying abroad for the semester. In my time here I've met people from many countries and all of them know at least 3 languages. From what I've seen transitioning to the University of Connecticut and now transitioning to a French University, America and Connecticut in particular is falling behind. Eliminating the FL requirement will only continue our inadequacy. I would not be where I am today if I did not take foreign language classes in high school. The FL requirement is necessary in order for our state and our country to catch up to the rest of the world.

I strongly urge you to support Bill #945.

Merci,

Lacey LaHaie