

Friis, John

From: mary lou montanye [pleasantlake@msn.com]
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 11:26 AM
To: Friis, John
Cc: jaya.vijayasekar@vernonct.org
Subject: In Support of Bill 945

Importance: High

Dear Rep. Janowski, Senator Guglielmo and the Education Committee:

I wish to express my support of Bill 945 – to include world language as a high school graduation requirement in Connecticut. I am currently a Spanish teacher at Rockville High School in Vernon-Rockville.

My personal experience has given me a unique opportunity to realize the importance of knowing another language. For 21 years prior to teaching, I worked at Aetna, Inc. in Hartford. For several years, I was a Health and Life Insurance Underwriter, weighing the morbidity and mortality factors related to those types of insurance.

As Aetna expanded globally, the company opened an office in Santiago, Chile selling life and auto insurance. I traveled to Santiago for a total of 2 months to train the underwriter in that office. Had I not been able to speak Spanish, I would never have had this opportunity to meet people and participate in a foreign culture.

Languages open doors to the future for students. In addition, languages expand opportunities, especially job-related. We owe it to our students today to provide them with the tools to attaining these skills.

I ask for your vote to support world language as a high school graduation requirement in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Montanye

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