

Friis, John

From: maya kalonia [mayaaa_kalonia@hotmail.com]

Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 9:55 AM

To: Friis, John

Subject: Raised Bill No. 945

Re: Bill No. 945

Dear Senator Gaffey and the members of the Education Committee,

I am a senior at E. O. Smith High School and have been taking French for six years. It has been one of the most valuable courses I have taken in my entire learning career. This is because even though I have been able to travel many times with my parents to other countries, and experience other cultures, none compare to the experience that I have received through the exchange programs at my school. Two years ago I traveled to France with my school and lived with a French family. This was the first time I was truly able to submerge myself in a different culture, and not the usual participation in the common tourist activities. It improved my language and communication skills greatly and gave me a broader outlook on the world and learned to see that everyone, including teenagers around the world are really all the same. Now I have a skill that will benefit me in any career, and put me ahead of a lot of competition when it comes to finding jobs; as well as being cultured and open minded. Being open minded is very important in a person, especially if they come from a small town and never have the opportunity to leave. Language courses are vital, and sometimes the only chance a person can have to experience the outside world, especially through exchanges.

Sincerely,
Maya Kalonia
90 Southworth Dr.
Ashford, CT 06278

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