

Friis, John

From: Sandra Gladden [sandra.gladden@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2009 4:42 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: Education Bill #945 (World Language High School Graduation Requirement)

Dear
Senator Gaffey,
Representative
Fleischmann
and
members
of
the
Education

Committee:

My name is Sandra Gladden from Vernon, CT and I am writing to you in support of Bill #945. This is the bill proposing a World Language High School graduation requirement for the State of Connecticut. I am a veteran World Language teacher, serving for 19 years in Connecticut teaching Spanish and French. I am a member of CT COLT (Connecticut Council of Language Teachers) and the AATSP (American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.)

I have helped Connecticut's students learn to communicate with people from other countries. Equally as important, our students have learned diversity as they study various cultures, comparing them to our own. An additional benefit to requiring a World Language High School graduation requirement is that the study of a World Language offers a unique insight into our own language. As our world shrinks with travel and the use of the internet, we want our students to be equipped to position themselves in global markets. If they have not been trained to look beyond our borders, we will be hindering their pursuit of excellence.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,
Sandra B. Gladden
15 Center Street
Vernon, CT 06066