<u>The State of World Languages in Florida - CALL TO ACTION!</u>
<u>1/24/2017</u>

Re: Computer Coding Bills SB104 and HB265 *(documents: SB104, HB265)*

https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2017/0104

https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=56935

NOTE: Legislative sessions begin March 7, 2017
Committee meetings calendar: http://floridapolitics.com/archives/222346-florida-house-senate-set-interim-2017-committee-meeting-schedule

1. Build an advocacy coalition:

A. **Go to the following link and find out who your local legislators are and the address of their local office in your area:**

 www.myfloridahouse.gov **and** *www.flsenate.gov*

 Sign up on these websites for alerts on the bills and "like" their social media page and follow them on Twitter.

B. **GO IN PERSON to your local legislators' offices and share resources and personal stories that are evidence of the impact and power WL are having in schools and beyond. Look them in the eyes and ASK why they are not supporting world languages education in Florida and ASK if they will become a "champion" for WL in opposition to SB104 and HB265.** *(article: http://www.attn.com/stories/12768/former-congressional-staffer-explains-how-to-make-congressman-listen)*

C. **Send messages to the "Friends of FFLA/world languages" asking them to continue supporting world languages on SB104 and HB265** *(document: "Friends of FFLA 2016")*

D. **Invite legislators, community business leaders, School Board members, administrators and any other "stakeholders" into your classrooms to witness the power of languages. Set up a panel of students to talk to these guests; record the interaction and then, take to your local legislator to show them that STUDENTS ARE ASKING FOR WORLD LANGUAGES EDUCATION. Legislators are usually reluctant to say "no" to children.**

E. **Ask personal friends and family to also contact their legislators in Florida.**

2. Op-Eds (OPinion EDitorial pieces for newspapers, publications)

A. **Share the op-ed articles through social media and with stakeholders** *(document: "Media Coverage from Previous Session")*

B. Write an article yourself or get others to write them to submit to your local newspaper and media outlet and share with others

C. Good topics for Op-Eds: Languages for All (Diversity), Impact on Colleges and Universities, Impact on Business, Computer Coding as an Unfunded Mandate, Computer Coding Is Part of Computer Science, positive personal stories and anecdotes about the power of languages

3. EDUCATE, ENLIGHTEN, SHARE AND INVITE

A. Host a "Languages Awareness and Advocacy Day" at your school. Get students to prepare messages about the power of languages and intercultural awareness; also have students do presentations that demonstrate the power of language learning in schools and the effect on community and preparation for the real world

B. Share resources, data, personal stories through social media and in person

C. Keep your message positive, informative and inviting

D. Go to the following links and download the advocacy resources that will guide you through the process. Also, share these with others:

> **https://ffla.wildapricot.org/advocacy**
> **https://www.actfl.org/advocacy**
> **https://nble.org/resources/advocacy/**

IMPORTANT documents to be found on FFLA advocacy page and SHARED:

Make CS Count Models
Advocate for World Languages
Advocacy Corner for FFLA 2016
ACTFL Computer Coding Position Statement
LULAC Position Statement on Computer Coding Bills
JNCL Position Statement on Coding
Florida Projected Employment - WL vs Coding
Florida Jobs - WL vs Coding