

Friis, John

From: jaking@clarku.edu
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 12:33 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: ECA

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

I am writing to strongly advocate for Sec.5 of House Bill H6666, which will allow for adjunct faculty certificates to be issued to the highly-trained professional artists, who serve as ECA's part-time faculty, to continue their 35-year record of preparing Connecticut's high-school students for our competitive global economy. If they are required to become certified for 10-hour per week part-time positions, they will not be able to do so and the school will close. This will be a terrible loss to Connecticut's high school students in 19 school districts.

In addition, parents must be allowed to pay privately if their school districts do not cover tuitions to ECA. Students who pay privately make up 25% of the school; not allowing students whose school districts cannot cover tuitions (and this year's school-district budgets have already been set) will have the effect of depriving both students whose districts cannot pay AND students whose districts are able to pay of an extraordinary education at ECA, because ECA cannot lose 25% of its students and survive.

I attended the creative writing program at ECA for only two years, but I learned more about writing from the teachers in those two years than my four years of college. It was an amazing experience that I can't imagine having done without. I always had an interest in creative writing, but ECA helped me refine my skills so much. The teachers are experts at their art which is what matters most. They have been great teachers for years, why try to fix something that is not broken?

Please support ECA and its teachers because it is an invaluable opportunity for students!

Thank you,
Janna King