

Friis, John

From: Laina Pauker [all4laina@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 12:03 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: Educational Center for the Arts

I am writing to strongly advocate for Section 5 of House Bill HB6666, 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 12-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.

As a junior at ECA's visual arts department, I have a unique opportunity to be taught by practicing artists rather than certified teachers. I could easily take art classes at my sending school, Wilbur Cross, but ECA is different. The teachers are much more experienced- some of them having masters degrees or Yale educations- and the atmosphere is much more creative. There is no teacher student barrier. Rather, we are able to learn from each other; the teachers guiding us not instructing us. I have grown immensely as an artist in my three years at ECA and fear for the incoming students who will be subjected to certified teachers instead of inspiring role models.

Thanks,
Laina Pauker
Wilbur Cross Wight School, 2010
Visual Arts at ECA!!