Friis, John

From: Blessing Offor [blessingoffor@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 11:56 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: House Bill HB6666

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 student under the tutelage of the E.C.A faculty, I can tell you that there's nothing like it anywhere. The school is a wonderful combination of family, friends, fun, and passion for what you love to do. I was so grateful when I came to college and was able to test out of most of my theory classes because of my education at E.C.A. I remember particularly that all the members of the faculty were so willing to accommodate my blindness. And speaking from experience, it's so much nicer when someone does something for you out of the kindness of their heart, instead of simply because of federal laws. E.C.A cared about me as a person, as a student and most importantly, as an artist. I was so grateful when they provided me a private voice teacher. In fact, the voice teacher prepped me for my college audition. I was grateful when yet another member of the faculty was willing to stay after school with me and give me saxophone lessons.

The point of these anecdotes is to hopefully show you that there is more to education than the degree you have. The teachers at E.C.A have something that no degree can add to or take away from. They have life long experience and dedication to their craft. They have wisdom. I am a direct recipient of those wonderful gifts and I beg you not to take that away from future students.