

**Hayes, Katherine**

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**From:** Barb Hutchison [beestar227@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2009 4:53 PM  
**To:** Friis, John  
**Subject:** HB6666 Section 5

Good Afternoon John,

My name is Barb Hutchison, and my son David Hutchison attends ACES/Educational Center for the Arts, in the theatre department. He has been attending this school for the past 4 years, and is now a senior getting ready to graduate, and is off to college to pursue a BFA in Acting. If it were not for this school, and the wonderful teachers that teach there I am not sure what we would have done. He has been exposed to some of the best techniques in acting and has received great feedback from the college auditions that he has attended. They always ask us where he goes to school, cause he has the education of a freshman student in a BFA acting program, so they tell us, and they are very impressed! He carries himself like a professional, and has gained invaluable knowledge, all from the teachers that teach there. This summer he received his first paying acting job!. What a great accomplishment! I was so very proud of him!

The teachers love for the theatre, with their real life experiences and their own training in a career that they love, and to be able to have the ability to pass that onto the kids who attend this school is something all schools should strife for. What a great educational gift to give a kid!

My son's second year attending this school, was paid for by myself. Our town was no longer going to assist in the program, and he was so upset that he might not be able to go, as it was very expensive for us to afford on our own. I did everything in my power to ensure that he continued his education, at ECA, it was NOT up for discussion.. I attended board meetings in my town and made sure that the superintendent knew how important this school was to our community and my son. I paid for that year out of my own pocket, which was at a cost of \$3700.00. I took a second job to pay for the tuition, and it sure has paid off.

Just the other day my son said to me...thanks again for paying that tuition for me, cause I could not image not attending ECA! He was very up set to hear that the school might close. This was the perfect school for my son, and I am sure there are many other parents that feel the same way. It would truly be a great lose to New Haven and the surrounding communities, to loose the great staff

and support they offer to kids interested in the arts! Please reconsider, and give a kid a career choice in the arts and allow them to share their passion with the world! What a great gift to give a kid! Isn't that what education is all about!

Thank you for taking your time to read my letter and your consideration NOT to close this great school!

Sincerely,

Barb Hutchison  
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