

**Friis, John**

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**From:** Catherine Lincoln [mrlandccl@cshore.com]

**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2009 8:11 AM

**To:** Friis, John

**Subject:** Testimony in Support for HB6666 Section 5

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Education Committee: My name is Catherine Lincoln, and I live North Haven. My husband is the Rev. Matt Lincoln, Rector of North Haven's St. John's Episcopal Church, and we have a 10<sup>th</sup> grader at North Haven High School who is also in the Creative Writing Department of Educational Center for the Arts in New Haven.

I am writing to show my support for Section 5 of HB6666. This section allows for an adjunct instructor certificate for part-time teachers of arts magnet high schools like ECA. I realize that there are certified teachers who are opposed to this section. I am not trying to compromise any existing protections of certified teachers. My children (and all ECA students) need and appreciate their expertise and guidance, and benefit from it in their home schools in the morning, where they receive excellent instruction in their academic subjects. But I urge the Education Committee to find room in the certification laws for the apprenticeship model of teaching appropriate for high school students with gifts in highly specialized fields in the arts.

ECA students exceed standards across all departments. To offer a few examples: Two-thirds of the Creative Writing department won Gold Keys in the Scholastic Writing Awards competition this year. Their writing has been published in catalogs of the most accomplished, award-winning student writing from across the country, as well as in *Best Teen Writing of 2008*. The Theatre Department's production of *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* was named one of the best regional performances in New Haven County, alongside those produced by Yale Rep and Long Wharf Theatres. More than one-third of the performers selected statewide to perform original pieces at the CMEA conference last spring were from ECA. All sixteen seniors who graduated last year from the ECA Dance Department went on to college or conservatory, several receiving full scholarships. On a yearly basis, students in the Visual Arts department garner prestigious awards, including, last year, a \$68,000 scholarship on the basis of a project produced at ECA. And ECA has a graduation rate significantly higher than the Connecticut average.

Our daughter recently won a spot at the New England Young Writers Conference at Breadloaf, VT, and was awarded an IMPAC Young Writers Prize for her writing. This is due entirely to the mentoring she received from the published writers in the ECA Creative Writing Department. For her remaining two years of high school, we want her to continue to work with the professional artists at ECA. They do not need certification; they are master artists sharing their expertise and experience with young artists. We are asking you please to help us keep a unique institution in existence by finding a way to adjust certification requirements so that we do not to jeopardize our daughter's future and that of all other ECA students.

Thank you.

Catherine and Matt Lincoln  
1 Trumbull Place  
North Haven, CT

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