

Friis, John

From: Guarnieri, Cody N(student) [guarnierico@stu.easternct.edu]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 8:40 PM
To: Friis, John; Rep. Genga, Henry; Senator LeBeau
Cc: ca_pace@yahoo.com
Subject: Support for HB6666 Section 5

Dear Mr. Friis, Mr. Genga, and Mr. LeBeau,

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.

In May of this year I will be graduating from Eastern Connecticut State University with degrees in both History and Political Science. In the fall I will be beginning my first year of law school at the University of Connecticut School of Law. I have no doubt that my academic accomplishments, though largely unrelated to the arts, are partly derived from my three years at the Educational Center for the Arts. ECA has continued to provide students with the opportunity and freedom to pursue their artistic desires, and in the process prepare them for the experience of higher education. The opportunity to take classes with professional artists was undoubtedly ECA's greatest asset. These fine men and women have been able to install in me an understanding of free-thinking and open-mindedness within the context of the real world, conceptions which are lacking in the mainstream public secondary school curricula. To allow tyrannous standardization and accountability legislation to rob students of similar experiences as my own would be a enormous failure of Connecticut public education. Please feel free to contact me for any further information about myself or my time at ECA.

-Cody N. Guarnieri

Eastern Connecticut State University

Senior

Interfaith Campus Ministries President