

Friis, John

From: jhorw79060@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 6:23 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: teacher certification HB6666

Dear Education Committee,

Please include these comments in your hearing tomorrow on HB6666>

I am a

- > parent of a 10th grade child who currently attends both
- > Amity High School in Woodbridge and
- > the Educational Center for the Arts in New
- > Haven. My older children, Ben Horwitz
- > and Allie Horwitz are both graduates of
- > Amity.

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> I am writing

- > because I understand the state is considering both reducing
- > funding to this outstanding regional program and is further
- > contemplating requiring that the extraordinary faculty that
- > consists of dedicated professional writers, actors, artists
- > and musicians be certified.

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> The reduction

- > in funding and the teacher certification requirement would
- > eviscerate this program. The
- > children and our community stand to lose by both of these ill considered
- > proposals.

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> As a regional

- > program, ECA is to be commended for bringing together
- > students of diverse racial and socio-economic backgrounds to pursue high
- level

- > training in the arts. The arts

- > have an amazing, almost magical capacity, to tear down

3/16/2009

- > barriers. The loss of this
- > program to budgetary cuts would be
- > immeasurable.
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- > As an
- > arts program, ECA is akin to a college level program. Certification of
- > teachers, while
- > laudable under many circumstances, must also be recognized
- > as a barrier under other circumstances.
- > The state should not be in the business of erecting
- > barriers to qualified professionals.
- > Rather, the state should have the wisdom and
- > flexibility to recognize that there are outstanding
- > professionals who either because of time commitments, the
- > relative expense or other reasons may
- > not be able to undergo the certification process.
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- > The purpose of
- > certification is to assure minimal competence among our
- > teachers. A process that
- > excludes the extraordinarily competent in the name of
- > assuring minimal competence should not be implemented. This is particularly
- > true where our
- > children will suffer.
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- > Given the seriousness of these issues, I was
- > disappointed to hear Commissioner McQuillen state in a radio
- > interview on NPR that even before public comment, he had
- > made up his mind that certification would be required and he
- > would not entertain suggestions to the contrary.
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- > I urge the state
- > to fully fund ECA and to resist any certification plan that
- > would interfere with the ECA's ability to continue to
- > attract extraordinary teachers.
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> Sincerely,
>
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