

**Hayes, Katherine**

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**From:** Jonathan Spies [jonathan@zabriskiegallery.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2009 10:36 AM  
**To:** Friis, John  
**Cc:** eca\_pace@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** HB6666, Section 5

ECA has made an enormous impact on the community. Any legislative action that threatens its existence would be a disaster and a tragedy. Leave aside the emotional lifeline that ECA provides to so many students who would otherwise fall through the cracks in their local high schools -- ECA gave me the background that has propelled me through a career in the art world. I am now the director of a major New York art gallery, and this would never have been possible without ECA. ECA provides a unique synthesis of community and exceptional education. In a world of school-shootings and few employment prospects, ECA is a beacon of unquestionable success. Its recipe should be studied and emulated, not discarded. I urge you to reconsider this legislation.

Best,  
Jonathan Spies  
Zabriskie Gallery, Director  
ECA '00