

Friis, John

From: Falaro, Judith L. Prof. [Judith.Falaro@quinnipiac.edu]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 8:51 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: Support of Section 5 of House Bill HB6666

Dear Mr. Friis,

I am writing in support of Section 5 of House Bill HB6666, which will allow the highly-trained professional artists who serve as ECA's part-time faculty, to work under adjunct faculty certifications rather than require them to obtain standard CT certifications. These faculty members are accomplished and renowned specialists in their respective fields who perform, write and create works of Art for a living but love their craft enough to share their talents on a part time basis with our young aspiring high school students who are also budding thespians, writers, dancers, musicians and artists at ECA . ECA is a unique opportunity for teens from New Haven and its suburban neighbors to forget their differences and share their passions for the Arts. As the former principal of Wilbur Cross High School, I witnessed the positive impact and outcomes our students experienced because of ECA. If this bill fails and these extraordinary artists, who experience nothing but success with every student whose lives they touch, are required to obtain a CT certificate in order to teach, they will have to leave ECA and we will have failed in our mission to ensure that only the most highly qualified people be allowed to teach our children. The positions we are desperately trying to save at ECA are 12 hour per week part-time faculty positions that are the lifeblood of that institution; without them the school, one of the only ones specifically for gifted and talented youth from any and every walk of life from 19 sending school districts, will close.

As the former Supervisor of the Magnet Schools for the City of New Haven, I can speak firsthand of the importance of reducing racial isolation and providing children with challenging, exciting and authentic learning opportunities that at the very least open their eyes to the possibilities life has to offer and at best develops them into competitive life long learners well prepared to lead, not just take their places in this global economy. ECA is a magnet school that has been changing and enriching students' lives for many, many years, please help it to continue on its successful mission.

Very truly yours,

Judith L. Falaro, Esq.
Adj. Professor Quinnipiac University
School of Education, MAT Program
Member, ACES Foundation Bd of Directors