

Friis, John

From: koreilly@hartford.edu on behalf of koreilly [koreilly@hartford.edu]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 10:37 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: Support for HB6666 Section 5 = Support for Part-Time Teachers at ECA

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Keelin O'Reilly, and I graduated from ACES Educational Center for the Arts last spring. 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.

As a former student there, I strongly appreciate all the time and effort my teachers put into their job. I only went to ECA for my senior year, and it honestly made my high school experience much better. Although I am an art student at the University of Hartford, I was in the dance department at ECA as my last opportunity to dance. I learned more than the average high school student about the professional dancing world. Most dancers only know how to choreograph to a two and a half minute song, and perform for a competition.

To be a professional dancer, one must know how to choreograph to no music in particular, improvise, be physically and mentally capable to dancing for hours, and know how to work with a diverse group of dancers. The teachers at ECA were able to teach me this and more.

I felt so much closer to all my teachers at ECA than any of my teachers at Cheshire High School. Susan, Willie, and Maryanne made me work so hard and I love them for it. These three teachers in particular opened my eyes to the dance world which I desperately want to be a part of. Due to their dedication, I am inspired to minor in dance. Without their expertise I would not be confident enough to even try out. ECA made me so much more comfortable with all my skills and changed my high school experience for the better.

Please seriously consider the horrible effect passing this bill would cause to not only the teachers, but the students who cannot get intense training in any of the arts in another way.

Thank you for your consideration,
Keelin O'Reilly