

## Friis, John

---

**From:** Kristy Chambrelli [kristychambrelli@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 15, 2009 11:04 PM  
**To:** Friis, John  
**Subject:** HB6666, Section 5

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Kristy Chambrelli and I am writing in support of 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. If required to become certified for 12-hour per week part-time positions, the school will lose valued faculty and teaching artists leading it to close. This will be a terrible loss to Connecticut's high school students in 19 school districts.

I was a voice principle in the Music Department graduating in 2000. I spent all four of my high school years at ECA and Hamden High School. My time at ECA prepared me so well for college that I was able to test out of freshman and sophomore level classes at one of the most prestigious Conservatories in the Nation. We were lucky enough to work with actual working professionals in the music industry who brought a different view than what we had at our sending school. Most sending schools do not offer the style of curriculum that ECA possesses. I entered college with more performance and real life experience than my classmates. My instructors created a nurturing and special environment where we knew it was safe to take risks.

I was exposed to genres of music I might not otherwise have known about if I did not attend ECA. Some of my classes included: Klezmer, South African Drumming, Indian Music, and Samba along with our Jazz and Classical studies. Our instructors would come in a day or two a week just to teach their specialty. They were professional musicians and specialists in their genre. Learning directly from the artists in the genre was an amazing opportunity. If the positions become certified positions these faculty will not stay. They already have careers and they would not be able to commit to that schedule.

The best teachers I have had in the industry are artists. They know what you are going through and what you need to do to achieve your goals. They are sensitive to what your needs are as a developing artist and know how to help you through the rough patches. The ECA faculty are caring, compassionate individuals who are simply trying to share their knowledge and passion with the next generation of artists. I have been recommending ECA to students since my graduation and have even coached both vocalists and actors for their auditions. ECA is turning out not only amazing artists but well-rounded and charitable people.

Thank you for your time,  
Kristy Chambrelli  
Stage Director/Choreographer

ECA, Music Department (Voice), '00  
Berklee College of Music, Undergraduate Studies in Composition, '01 Boston Conservatory,  
B.M. Vocal Performance, '05 Florida State University, Graduate Studies in Opera Directing,  
'06