

**Friis, John**

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**From:** Linnea Rodriguez [linneajulia@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Sunday, March 15, 2009 4:07 PM

**To:** Friis, John

**Subject:** HB6666 Section 5

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Linnea Rodriguez, I am a third year student at Emerson College as a theatre education major. 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.

I must say that closing Educational Center for the Arts (ECA) will break the hearts of its students, faculty, alumni, and most importantly, its potential students. Attending ECA has been one of the best things I have ever done in my life. I am not writing you a heart-felt letter pleading for your sympathy... I am going to tell you the truth about ECA and the magic it creates.

High school isn't easy for everyone. However, at ECA I've seen jocks, artists, nerds, and every stereotype of a person come together, work with each other, and create beautiful art. It is a place where everyone gets along, no one is disrespected, and everyone loves and cares for each other. It is a perfect school, literally. No teacher has had to raise their voice, send students to the principals office, worry about their safety and the safety of others, or even give exams to their students because they already know all the information through the process of learning.

Most schools don't understand that there are 9 different types of learners. Howard Gardner Ph.D is the founding father of the Multiple Intelligences Theory. He proposed his theory of multiple intelligences in his book, Frames of Mind. The theory is to "help create communities of reflective, self-directed learners, to encourage the pursuit of deep understanding within and across disciplines, and to promote critical and creative thinking" (9).

Schools lecture and have their students take notes. Not everyone can learn this way. School becomes difficult and a place to dread going to. However, ECA understands Gardner's theory and practices it with its students. Finally, a school that students actually want to go to. Together, everyone has learned more about themselves, society, the world, art, theatre, music... And the best part is, all of the students want to learn more. ECA makes students hungry for knowledge and to make a difference.

**If the teachers at ECA 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.**

It's ridiculous that teachers need to become certified to teach... Is a certified person better than an expert in their field? Teachers at ECA know their information and how to teach it well.

Don't believe me?

Go to ECA and observe it for yourself. It's on Audubon St. in New Haven.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope this e-mail finds you well and you can help make a difference.

3/16/2009

Sincerely Yours,

Linnea Rodriguez  
ECA's Senior Award Recipient, 2006