

**Friis, John**

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**From:** Pam Elliott [pellott03@snet.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 14, 2009 6:54 PM  
**To:** Friis, John  
**Subject:** "HB6666, Section 5"

The teachers that come to ECA have varied and interesting backgrounds in so many fields. They bring their life experience and superlative skills to pass on to our children. It would be a huge mistake to discourage these outstanding teachers by adding the burden of certification on them especially when they give so much of themselves to our children. Both of my children are ECA alumni from the music curriculum. It was such a good experience and enriched their lives in so many ways, not purely academic. Even with the extra long days, my son and daughter looked forward to going to classes because the teachers were inspiring, the material was interesting, they made new friends and creativity was encouraged, not to mention all the performing opportunities they were able to experience. I'm deeply saddened that this program may not be available for others in the future and that so many children could miss out on this unique opportunity to become involved in the arts.

Pam Elliott