

Friis, John

From: Risa Duff [risaduff@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 1:59 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: Support for HB6666 Section 5 = Support for Part-Time Teachers at ECA

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.

I first became involved with ECA in the summer before my 6th grade year. I was in a program called "Words! Action! Theatre!" I will always remember this as the summer when I realized that I would be an actor for the rest of my life. Each summer I returned to this program, for the rest of my time in middle school. I loved that I could be with people who accepted and understood me, while training in the craft I adored.

When I started high school, I auditioned for and was accepted to ECA. It was the best feeling in the world. As soon as the first semester began, I was already making friends with everyone in my classes. The guidance of my expert teachers allowed me to become an incredibly skilled actor. The plays and productions gave me an opportunity to express myself and share my talent.

Without ECA, I would not have an escape from the cruel, draining world of high school. I would not have a place where I could sing, act, and dance with people who shared my dreams. If you take away ECA, you are taking away my future. Please allow me to continue to create, dream, and live.

Sincerely,
Risa Duff