

Mr. John Friis  
Education Committee Clerk  
Connecticut General Assembly  
Hartford, CT

Martin Klein  
4 Penrhyn Road  
Woodbridge, CT 06525  
203-389-3383

March 16, 2009

**Re: RE: SEC. 5 HB6666, S.B. # 939**

Dear Mr. Friis:

I write in opposition to the Commissioner of Education's proposal that all part-time instructors in Connecticut become certified. I do so as a parent of a graduate of ACES ECA and of an 11<sup>th</sup> grader in the program, as an academic administrator with almost two decades of experience, and as a passionate believer in the transformative power of the arts.

ACES ECA is a unique program in the state of Connecticut. Its strength rests largely upon the extraordinary teachers in this program. As accomplished professionals in their chosen fields, they bring to our students unparalleled experience in the arts and a deep commitment to sharing the creative process with their students.

Certification for these professionals, who work part-time and are not highly paid, would require expenses and time commitments beyond what we can reasonably expect. Most of them will leave the program. The school, and our children, will be the losers.

ACES ECA offers an opportunity for students from largely white suburban schools to interact with minority students, something often not possible in their home schools. Among the many losses of required certification, and the attendant departure of many students as the quality of the program declines, would be the loss of a space where children of all races worked together in pursuit of their common passion for the arts.

I urge the education committee to reject the certification proposal for ACES ECA part-time instructors, and instead allow a waiver, the type of which I leave to the committee to determine.

Thank you very much for your consideration and for your hard work on behalf of the school children of Connecticut.

Warm regards,

Martin Klein