

Friis, John

From: Gina [gina@darkcloudproductions.com]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2009 5:46 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: verbal testimony for Monday-

As a concerned parent, I am voicing my concerns about two issues that could severely effect my family, 1) the commissioner's proposal for teacher certification for part time, working professional teachers at ECA and 2) proposed bill 946 section 3) which had a hearing on February 24th.

I am in favor of the alternative permit suggestion, rather than certification for the part-time professionals who teach at ECA. A permit would best enable the school to continue with its current roster of "WORKING PROFESSIONAL ARTIST TEACHERS", which I feel is most important for our fine art and writing students as it gives them a positive example of artists who work in their artistic field, and give back to others by teaching what they know.

The private pay option question, in bill 946 was the only way my daughter, Molly Gajdosik was able to attend the Visual Arts Program at ECA this past year as a freshmen.

If our sending towns do not have the funds to send every child accepted each year, then I feel, we as parents should have the right to pay the town portion, so our children who went through the application and selection process can participate in the program.

The passage of this section of this bill would have a negative impact on the entire region and the impact of reducing the number of students at ECA by 25% could close the school, an incredible institution for these talented High School students.

I urge the Education Commission not to overlook the value of part time magnet schools, and their special needs and situations. Our kids are counting on us to look out for their best interest, and allowing anything to jeopardize the health of ECA is not in their best interest.

Georgina Capristo-Gajdosik