



JOINT LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THEATRE AND DANCE ACT (SB 916 Allen)

In response to the introduction of Senate Bill 916 (Allen) – the Theatre and Dance Act (TADA!) – four of California’s leading arts advocacy organizations are uniting to express their support for legislation that would establish single-subject teaching credentials for Dance and Theatre.

The California Alliance for Arts Education, California Arts Advocates, Arts for LA and Arts Orange County recognize the opportunity SB 916 creates to ensure that students will receive dance and theatre instruction from teachers who have been trained to deliver standards-based learning in the classroom.

Under the current system, persons who major in dance as an undergraduate can only teach dance after obtaining a credential in Physical Education. A theatre undergraduate major can only teach theatre after receiving an English credential. SB 916 would establish credentials in Theatre and in Dance, similar to the credentials that currently exist for Music and Visual Arts teachers.

SB 916 includes a “grandfathering clause” that respects and protects those who are currently teaching dance and theatre under the Physical Education and English credentials, as well as language that maintains the current system of subject matter authorization.

The credentials will support teacher preparation by providing high-quality education for our students. At a time when California is facing a teacher shortage, the credentials will encourage prospective teachers to remain in the state to pursue their professional goals.

The arts are uniquely positioned to support the eight statewide priorities in the Local Control Funding Formula and the 21st Century skills underlying the Common Core State Standards.

It is time that our state recognizes ALL disciplines mentioned in our education code and teaching standards, including Dance and Theatre.