

February 10, 2016

Senator Ben Allen  
California State Senate  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Position: **SUPPORT**

Location: Senate Education Committee

**Re: SB 916 (Allen) Teacher credentialing (as introduced 1/27/15)**

Dear Senator Allen:

On behalf of the California Alliance for Arts Education, I am writing to express our support for Senate Bill 916 (Allen), your legislation that would establish single-subject teaching credentials for dance and theatre.

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.

Students deserve the opportunity for a rigorous, standards-based education with qualified and trained teachers in all core subjects. SB 916 will enable students to receive dance and theatre instruction from teachers who have been trained to deliver standards-based learning in the classroom.

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

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.

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

*The California Alliance for Arts Education is in its fifth decade of working to build a brighter future for our state by making the arts a core part of every child's quality education. A statewide leader and convener, the Alliance galvanizes California's abundance of arts and culture experts to advocate for quality visual and performing arts instruction for all students. By collaborating effectively with the state's leading education and parent engagement agencies and providing an anchor for policy expertise at the state and local levels, the Alliance is the leader in promoting the arts in schools and enriching the lives of children, families and communities.*

Please contact our legislative advocate, Kathryn Lynch, at (916) 443-0202 or [lynch@lynchlobby.com](mailto:lynch@lynchlobby.com) with any questions.

Sincerely,



Joe Landon  
Executive Director

cc: Senator Jean Fuller and Senator Bob Hertzberg, Co-Authors  
Ms. Cathy McBride, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office  
Mr. Lenin Del Castillo, Consultant, Senate Education Committee  
Mr. Roger Mackensen, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus  
Ms. Kathryn Lynch, Legislative Advocate  
California Alliance for Arts Education