TO: California Commission on Teacher Credentialing  
RE: Dance and Theater Credentials  
DATE: June 10, 2013

On behalf of the California Alliance for Arts Education I am writing to express our support for the proposal currently under consideration by the Commission to recommend the establishment of statewide teaching credentials in the subjects of Dance and Theater.

For too long those who would pursue careers as dance and theater teachers have had no choice but to pursue credentials in Physical Education and English, in order to be recognized as ‘qualified’ teachers by the state of California. In fact, those requirements have limited the quality of the instruction those teachers have received. As one of the four strands of arts education, dance and theater should be recognized for their unique value and curriculum, just as visual arts and music are. The lack of a credential has discouraged potential teachers from pursuing teaching careers in California, undermining our ability to provide students with the excellence in instruction they deserve.

By supporting the establishment of these credentials the Commission will send a clear message that our state is committed to providing high quality education in all four arts disciplines. It will open learning and teaching opportunities for the next generation of students and teachers, and help ensure that our state delivers on the promise of its education code, that every student shall receive the benefits of high quality arts education in all four disciplines.

California Alliance for Arts Education is in its fourth 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.

Sincerely,

Joe Landon  
Executive Director