

March 13, 2007

Dear Member of Congress:

The Royal Academy of Dance is a National CoSponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2007.

The Royal Academy of Dance/USA is a Branch of the Royal Academy of Dance, London, which is one of the largest and most influential dance education and training organizations. The Academy exists to promote knowledge, understanding and practice of dance internationally. We have 14,000 members worldwide including 5,800 certified Registered Teachers and 250,000 students who participate in Royal Academy of Dance examinations annually.

As the National Administrator for the Royal Academy of Dance, one of my primary goals is to raise the awareness in the United States of the need for certification and licensing requirements for teachers of dance. Unlike in many countries, anyone in the United States can open a business and claim to be a qualified dance teacher with no proof of knowledge and experience in the training of children and adults.

Parents often trust their children to people who are not properly trained and this can result in irreparable damage done to young bodies. Certified teachers in this country are a minority and members of the Royal Academy of Dance in the United States are those who have chosen independently to seek a higher standard in their dance education.

It is the hope of the Royal Academy of Dance/USA that Congress will study this issue and implement laws that will require anyone who teaches dance, gymnastics, martial arts, etc. to be certified and licensed through government approved organizations.

Sincerely,



Patti Ashby
US National Administrator
Royal Academy of Dance

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