

Written Testimony relating to RHB 5562

We have a 3rd grader Ross McIntyre who struggled at Oxridge School in Kindergarten and 1st grade with reading. Being the 3rd of our 4 kids we could see that he was having far more problems with language decoding and reading comprehension than our other children. We raised our concerns with the school on multiple occasions but were told Ross was performing at grade level. We subsequently had Ross tested independently and got a clear diagnosis of dyslexia from respected educational psychologists. We were then unhappy with the support Ross received from the special needs system in Darien and we ended up moving him at the beginning of this year to The Windward School in White Plains which is a specialist dyslexia school.

Our experience is that the teachers at Oxridge were unable to spot the signs of dyslexia in our son that we could clearly see. Alternatively they could see the challenges and did not have an incentive to push for a diagnosis. In the proposed legislation we think there needs to be more emphasis on identifying kids with language challenges. We hope you will reconsider the law to include more provision for dyslexia identification and diagnosis and for teachers to be better equipped to handle these issues.

We are supportive of RHB 5562 but believe it does not go far enough to support kids who are struggling with these issues.

Alan & Maria McIntyre

42 Holly Lane

Darien

CT 06820