

Statement in support of RHB 5562, Section 1, An Act Concerning Special Education

To: Senator Andrea L. Stillman
Representative Andrew M. Fleischmann

I am a 55 year old man. It has been a struggle for me to learn to read for the last 30 to 40 years because I didn't get the proper instruction in school.

Teachers should be able to help the kids. They signed up to help kids, so they shouldn't turn their back on them when they struggle. When those students get to junior high and high school, they don't want to go to school any more because they don't have the proper teaching.

You don't want to tell people you don't know how to read because it's embarrassing. It's wrong; teachers should have special training—just a couple teachers in a school to help the kids who need extra help a couple hours a day just to get them going.

Trying to get a job is hard. You have to find somebody to help you fill out applications. Then you have to find jobs where you don't have to read at work. When I go to a restaurant, it's hard to read the menu so I just ask for something simple. Paying bills, filling out money orders, and writing checks are very difficult. I don't have a checking account because it's too hard to write out the checks.

I felt bad because I could not help my children when they needed help with homework or having permission slips signed for school. I couldn't take notes at a meeting or conference, or write resumes for job applications. I couldn't write letters to friends and relatives who live out of town.

I don't want kids to be like me being a 55-year old man trying to learn how to read. I want somebody to please help the teachers to help the kids learn at an early age. They shouldn't struggle for the rest of their lives because they don't know how to read and write.

Please pass this law to teach teachers how to teach kids like me how to read.

Thank you.

David Watson
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Student at Literacy Volunteers of Greater Waterbury

The statement above was dictated to David's tutor at Literacy Volunteers of Greater Waterbury