

# FORMAN



1930

March 14, 2014

Dear Members of the Education Committee,

As the Head of School at Forman School, I am writing to express the School's support of HRB No. 5562. However, we believe that the language of the bill should be expanded to include early screening for and identification of Dyslexia.

Neuroscience has made great strides the understanding of the dyslexic brain. MRI scans show that the brains of children with Dyslexia function differently during typical language-based tasks from those who read without difficulty during the same tasks.

Recent findings in neuroplasticity indicate that the neural pathways can be re-routed through proper and regular use of reading strategies by specially trained teachers working closely with students. Proper use of assistive technologies – especially text-to-voice software – can make reading accessible to those who struggle.

Early identification and intervention can prevent the stigmatization and low self esteem of children who are often otherwise quite bright. Appropriate professional development for the teachers who work with these students can measurably improve their academic success and likelihood of achievement in higher education and in their professional lives.

We hope that the State of Connecticut will recognize that the issues faced by students with Dyslexia can be addressed with early detection and effective teaching techniques and make it possible for them to achieve their highest potential.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam K. Man".

Adam K. Man  
Head of School

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