

Testimony for Education Committee Public Hearing on act concerning  
Dyslexia and Special Education.

In 1992 at a PPT meeting I was told that my 5th grade son was unable to read, that the school system could not do anything to help him but would put him in resource room to give him more time to figure it out. They refused my idea of a phonetic based program and said that they only taught Whole Language programs. My above average IQ , dyslexic son was withering away before my eyes with his self esteem dropping daily. My youngest son is also dyslexic. Every day I still see children going through the same emotional and academic nightmare.

I searched for a way to help my children and none of the local universities or colleges had classes to help me teach dyslexic children. I found the training I needed at The Learning House in Guilford with instruction on teaching reading using the Orton-Gillingham method, and have now taught well over 100 children, one on one, to read. I have taught in private and public schools and in my own private practice. These children have been able to choose their future, going on to college or beginning their own successful businesses as my children have done. However, the Orton-Gillingham trained instructors we do have in Connecticut, do not have enough time to help all of the dyslexic children that need them in this state. .

Most teachers need further education on dyslexia through professional development in the schools. I have many teachers asking me: How can I recognize dyslexia in my students? What can I do to help them? Why is this not specified on the Individualized Education Plan form? How did these children get to middle school or high school without intervention? These questions need to be finally addressed.

I am in total support and have been waiting 22 years to hear that dyslexia is being recognized as a reading disability and will be listed on the IEP form so that teachers may give appropriate instruction and accommodations. It would be an answer to my prayers to see children screened for dyslexia in the elementary schools and given proper instruction in reading at an early age. Please support these children by passing this bill. Many children are depending on it for a successful future.

Respectfully submitted by

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