

I support HRB NO. 5562, an act concerning Special Education; but I am requesting changes/additions to the bill:

- We need to focus our testimony on the lack of professional awareness concerning dyslexia in our public schools and the dire need for professional development focused on dyslexia. We cannot help what we do not recognize. I am a Literacy Volunteer and have seen the results of a student pushed through even college and be unable to read. This has a resulted in a major negative effect once this student reaches adulthood and tries desperately to become a responsible citizen, hold down a job, and be able to afford a home.
- We need a universal definition of dyslexia which will facilitate an understanding of dyslexia and lead to a more rapid provision of interventions.
- A box for "SLD-Dyslexia" on its own does not provide the knowledge needed to check that box. Again, we must address the need for professional development.

Sincerely,  
Donna T. Fleming  
Woodbury, CT