

Thank you to our Education Committee for drafting the dyslexia legislation and for giving me the chance to speak here today. I support the HRB 5562. My mom wrote that part. I am Nicholas Dawley, age 8, recently diagnosed with a reading disability but I would rather be called dyslexic. I am in third grade at Mohegan Elementary School in Uncasville. The reading decoding program I am in is called Imagine It! It is not helping me learn to read. My teacher told my mom that I have not made progress in reading in two years. My spelling tests are hard for me and I get most of the words wrong after studying all week. I bring a lot of my classwork home to do with my homework because I can not read as fast as my friends do. I do not mind reading out loud in front of my reading work shop group of three other kids. They know what is going on and they read like me. Maybe they are dyslexic too. I never raise my hand to read in front of my regular class. Now I know why it is so hard for me to read, I am dyslexic. It is good to know why school is so hard for me. Me and my friends in my reading work shop need your help. Reading is not getting easier for us and we work hard in the Imagine It program everyday. Please help kids like us. Thank you again.

Nicholas Dawley