

March 13, 2014

Re: In Support of Bill No.: RHB 5562, Section 1, An Act Concerning Special Education.

To Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischmann, and Education Committee Members:

As the Executive Director of Literacy Volunteers of Greater Waterbury, I have seen many adults struggle daily with the long-term effects of undiagnosed dyslexia. Numerous studies prove that if dyslexia is not diagnosed early, it can be severely detrimental to the academic performance and success of that child. Over time, these children grow up without the academic skills and self-esteem to become self-sufficient adults. This is the reality for far too many of our adult learners.

I urge your support of Bill No. RHB 5562, Section 1, An Act Concerning Special Education, but with the addition of these two critical keys to the success of this legislation: A universal definition of dyslexia which will facilitate an understanding of dyslexia and lead to a more rapid provision of interventions, and most important, a provision for Professional Development focused on dyslexia so that school staff will have the resources and tools necessary to identify and effectively offer remediation services in a timely manner.

Please act now to support Bill No. RHB 5562, Section 1, An Act Concerning Special Education — it will make a meaningful difference in the lives and futures of countless Connecticut children!

Best regards,

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