



# Dyslexia Society of Connecticut

*Reading for a Lifetime of Learning*

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Subject: **Testimony SB 1054**

Connecticut General Assembly

I, and the Board of Directors of the Dyslexia Society of Connecticut, believe that Raised Bill No. 1054 is a step in the right direction, which we support. However, we must indicate that additional supports are necessary to enable this bill to benefit our children. Dyslexia is a learning disability that can be remediated most effectively by early identification and early intervention.

It is essential that Connecticut schools have the capability to respond to indications that a student is, or could be, dyslexic. That capability does not have to be present in each school but each school must have prompt access to achieve a reasonable diagnosis of dyslexia, in order to initiate appropriate intervention. Early intervention is essential in order to remediate this learning disability.

Since reading disabilities comprise approximately 80% of those with learning disabilities<sup>1</sup>, appropriate intervention and remediation for children with dyslexia are essential. Of course, this intervention would be most effective with prompt assistance. Early intervention with evidence based reading instruction will provide the foundation that will enable all students to read more proficiently, with appropriate comprehension.

We believe that a structured phonics-based multisensory form of reading instruction has broad ranging benefits to all children and it has demonstrated the evidence necessary to assist students to decode unfamiliar material. When students receive and comprehend this instruction, their opportunity to profit from printed materials increases exponentially. By expanding their reading capabilities with appropriate comprehension, each child will have a brighter academic, social, and economic future. That prospect should be a foundational principle for all citizens and legislators of Connecticut.

I look forward to the complete engagement of our legislature to enact a bill that will meet the requirements and objectives of our dyslexic community and others with reading and literacy deficiencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Raised Bill No. 1054.

Sincerely,

*Donald K. Takacs*

Donald K. Takacs  
President

<sup>1</sup> Shaywitz, Sally, M.D. "Overcoming Dyslexia" A New and Complete Science-Based Program for Reading Problems at any Level (2003) p. 29