

Bill #1054

Stefan Keilich

My name is Stefan Keilich, I am currently attending the University of Hartford to earn my Bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering. I am also a recipient of the [Governor's Coalition for Youth with Disabilities Scholarship \(GCYD\)](#).

I have come here today like many to support this new bill that will set up better detection and early warning systems for children with learning disabilities. I am proud to be a dyslexic; I am who I am today because of the hard road I have had to take. I got here because I knew the battle I had to fight.

In first grade I was diagnosed with dyslexia and not until the fourth grade that I made any progress catching up with the other kids. It is due to a program called Cyberslate, that is not offered in my school that I learn the gift I had. All throughout my schooling my town put me through different programs that did not work and every summer I went to summer school or was home schooled with little to no progress, but Cyberslate improved my reading level from a kindergarten level to a third grade level in one summer. In high school I caught up to grade level. Though I still read at a much slower pace than everyone else, It took me ten time longer to read the same assignment than an average student, but I did it. Learning disabled students must be held to a higher level of achievement because it is harder for them and they have to work at it. In high school I did not let my slow reading and poor writing hold me back I took Advances Placement classes.

However I also had a resource study with students of similar learning disabilities and saw many slipping thought the crack of the system because they did not understand their gifts and found out too late. If I did not have the parents I have and the opportunity to work as hard as I did with the program that helped me I would not be where I am today, pursuing my dreams. I known of many of my peers with learning disabilities that did not think they were capable of college having just barely passed high school. Some found jobs, others not so lucky. I fear that could have been me without early detection.

I have learned the methods to master my dyslexia. As Dr. Ian Spence founder of Cyberslate once told me, I would have to work much harder than other student, and that dyslexia is not something easily overcome. But you learn the methods to work with it and with that you can master it. You can do anything if you have the time he told me. He showed me that there are many great thinkers, engineers, leader and famous people with dyslexia; I believe any dyslexic can become great. And if we do not detect dyslexia early, these great minds will fall thought the cracks.

Thank you
And please vote for this bill

My email is
Keilich@hartford.edu