

SB 1054 An Act Concerning Students with Dyslexia, Amanda Dawley from Montville

I am testifying today to ask for your support of dyslexic children in our public schools because what happens to them is not at all fair or equal. For two years I fought the fight with the Montville School district expressing my concerns and asking for testing for my always hard working, intelligent, social able, athletic son. Not knowing what to do, I called the non profit dyslexia organization located in Waterbury asking for advice. I was advised to hire a special education lawyer because that is generally the only time they see families make headway with school districts in getting their child identified and receive appropriate intervention support in our state. \$20,000 and 3 years later, my son has an IEP but has yet to make any progress in reading due to the lack of specialized programs and trained teachers in appropriate programs in our schools. He has had one year of 45min a day, 5 days a week, one on one instruction with a teacher who did a one time online 3 step program. There are 12 full steps in completing this program and this teacher with 3 steps was the only option our district had to offer. Despite his higher than average intelligence, he has yet to make any progress and remains to read at a 1st grade level nearing the end of 4th grade.

It is completely and totally unacceptable that this is what happens in our schools in this day and age. An early identification and appropriate remediation programs, with teacher training, would have completely changed my sons first few years in school. With my dyslexic son being my 3rd child, my view of our schools have completely changed. It has been 3 years since I first approached the school with my concerns. I have yet to hear of any leaps or bounds/changes my district is trying to make for the better for children with language deficit disabilities. At no time has my district said "We purchased this, hired so-in-so, changing this, etc. to better your son. They say this is what we have to offer, period. These kids go to school willing and ready to succeed like their peers but are failed due to lack of resources and teacher training. Please support SB 1054 for the better of our children and school districts.

Thank you, Amanda Dawley

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