

3/10/2015

Testimony of Carol Ann McClean, Stamford, CT

Senate Bill No. 1054, An Act Concerning Students with Dyslexia. 3/11/15

Dear Sir/ Madam:

Thank you for this opportunity to address all of you regarding my support of the education committee's Senate Bill No. 1054, An Act Concerning Students with Dyslexia. 3/11/15

In 1881, Oswald Berkhan identified the term dyslexia and it was coined in 1887 by [Rudolf Berlin](#), what is just remarkable is that 135 years later, it is only now, that dyslexia is finally being considered to be communicated on a educator to parent level in school PPT meetings and in IEP'S for children struggling with language based learning disabilities, for the first time, I applaud all who have brought this together.

Our child who attended a Stamford, CT Elementary School struggled as early as pre school with language based learning disabilities.

Looking back, if I had understood what I know today, the testing that our child received in pre school in Stamford, CT, should have never been considered a pass with no service support. The assumption was that as kindergarten was the next step, that in that environment, our child would get up to speed. That was probably the biggest mistake we ever permitted in our child's education.

Kindergarten, First Grade passed by the time Second Grade came around, not only were we behind academically but now bully situations started to develop, as other students felt they could take advantage of the fact that our child was struggling. We have since been on a successful program where our child is thriving, but not in our public school.

Due to our early public educators lack of knowledge about dyslexia, this bill will support educators to take the next critical step. The heart break is the journeys that children who are not as fortunate as our child, to have this available to them. In an article by Cowardin, Nancy (1998). Disorganized Crime: outlines the connection between learning disability and the criminal justice system, Criminal Justice, 13 (2), pp. 11-16.,

(<http://www.fd.org/docs/select-topics/mental-health/disorganized-crime-learning-disability-and-the-criminal-justice-system.pdf?sfvrsn=4>.)

makes the clear connection. Having an education where they could thrive, would possibly have been a life transformation for Connecticut students who end up behind bars. Just look at the impact this could have on the criminal justice system alone...

I support SB 1054, An Act Concerning Students with Dyslexia, but are requesting additional supports be added to the bill. Students not receiving early identification and not receiving appropriate interventions are my greatest concern.

As FRED J. EPSTEIN, MD 1937-2006, Internationally renowned pediatric neurosurgeon pioneering physician, researcher, teacher, administrator, who discovered he to had a learning disability when he was an adult said "

What I say to children with learning disabilities is:

We're like anybody else in terms of intelligence.

But we're wired differently, if we were in the majority,
we'd be trying to figure out how to teach them!"

If you would like to read Dr. Epsteins story it is available on my website:

icukids.com

"Dr. Fred Epstein, an Extraordinary Man, That Had an Extraordinary Life".

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kind regards,

Carol Ann McClean, Stamford, CT.