

Public Testimony for SB1054
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Dear Senator Slossberg and members of the Education Committee. I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1054. As a long term sufferer of dyslexia I would like to share my experiences in hopes that it will encourage you to support changes in the education system that could prevent what I have experienced. I have a form of spelling dyslexia. Prior to the advent of computers and spell check I would cringe when any of my work was returned to me in school as my papers would bleed red from all the corrections. In my early days of school I was very disinterested, as the constant criticism took its toll on my self esteem.

It wasn't until the end of the eighth grade that my parents sent me to an educational psychologist to address my problem and subsequent poor grades. As a result of the testing my parents sent me to boarding school for a year to address my form of dyslexia. I learned appropriate study habits and got the extra attention I need to excel. I went from a 2.0gpa student to a 3.6gpa student. I came to realize that my dyslexia was not a reflection of my intelligence.

I took many of the skills I learned and returned to the public school system. I received no further assistance for my dyslexia in the public school system and avoided any classes that required extensive writing or term papers. I managed my way through high school and debated furthering my education beyond. I went to a local branch of UCONN and almost failed my first semester. It was about this time that my parents bought one of the first home computers with a word processor and spell check. This allowed me to organize my thoughts and learn how to spell words that had previously given me great difficulty. Although the word processor program multi-mate would only tell you when words were spelt incorrectly and didn't auto correct. I have since gone on to complete my undergraduate education and a masters degree in healthcare administration and no longer fear expressing myself in writing. Technology has been a blessing to me. I am supporting this bill because it will ensure that others that have dyslexia are identified early in the public education system. If I had received help earlier from teachers that understood dyslexia and could of assisted me instead of chastising me, I would have avoided needless suffering.

I thank you for your time and attention to this matter

Sincerely, Dominic M. Cotton M.H.A