

## Testimony in support of Senate Bill 1054, An Act Concerning Students with Dyslexia

My name is Jesse Burks, I am in 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Nathan Hale Ray Middle School in East Haddam. A year ago I talked here about my experience moving from Texas to Connecticut and at school with dyslexia. Last year was a tough year. This year is sort of better. This year is better because of summer at Ben Bronze.

Last year everyday was a struggle. I stopped doing my work and just gave up. My mom talked to a lot of people and found a place called Ben Bronze. It is not near my house. My school wanted me to go to summer school at my school, but I did not want to go and keep feeling left behind and lost. So my mom took me to visit the people at Ben Bronze. Ian was great! Everyone was great. They talked to my mom and to me and I did a few problems with them and they said they thought the program could help me. My mom said I could go to summer school at this school- this I was excited about.

Summer school was really really good. The people there worked with me on decoding words and learning a lot of new vocabulary. I learned math problems and typing skills. I wrote stories and answered questions. Every day was something new and every day they worked with me until it was not new anymore. But I almost could not finish the program. My mom and dad had to fight for me to get the two final weeks. My school said no. They changed their mind finally and I was glad they did as I was ready for 5<sup>th</sup> grade because of all we did at Ben Bronze.

In 5<sup>th</sup> grade some of my teachers work with me, some do not understand how to help and just say 'oh well'. I still do my Ben Bronze lessons at school every day and I work with my Speech Teacher doing the LiPS program, it is not as good as what I learned in Texas but it helps in a different way.

Please make it better for me and kids like me..I don't like having to see my mom and dad fighting with the school to get me help. Why can't the teachers teach like they did in Texas? Please start by supporting Senate Bill 1054.

Jesse Burks, age 10, 5<sup>th</sup> grade East Haddam, CT