

March 11, 2015

Honorable Education Committee Members:

Hello, my name is Kevin Daley and I have dyslexia. My problem with dyslexia now is mostly in things related to math, spelling and grammar. I can't remember an equation nor can I speak or hand-write things correctly in any language. For example I can't divide, can't read cursive, and I can't speak in sentences when trying to answer something in Mandarin, a foreign language I've studied since high school. Due to this, my ability to learn has been compromised and it affects my grade expeditiously. My mom will most likely edit this testimony before she presents it. Sad part is, I am a 20 year old college student and my mom still helps me with spelling.

It's not all bad though, I used to not be able to read or write at all. It took me until fifth grade to be able to fully match up with the other kids. That's when I was pulled out of my school and brought to a literacy center. I read now thanks to special help and the kindness and patience of others. Problem is I was about 10 to 11 years old when I did get there. Without the help, I would have failed out of school but due to help and my own determination, I have been able to grow, adapt and prosper in my disability and match or better kids and adults who looked down upon me or bullied me because I was slower. Also at this point of time in my life, my dyslexia does not really play as big of a part in it as it did when I was younger because I have learned all I need to match with others and thus the problem has subsided. Unless it's handwriting, that's a different story. Sorry for any grammar errors.

I am in support of Senate Bill 1054, An Act Concerning Students with Dyslexia. Please add language about early assessments and evidence-based reading help taught with fidelity.

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