

March 7, 2015

To: State of Connecticut Education Committee
From: Marjorie Fuller-Supple
Re: Senate Bill 1054

To the Education Committee Members:

I am in support of Senate Bill No. 1054, An Act Concerning Students with Dyslexia. However, I would respectfully request that you add language to address the needs for early identification and evidence-based programming taught by highly qualified practitioners.

Thank you for passing the legislation last year. Now, you need to continue the work that needs to be done. You need to pass legislation that will provide opportunities for teachers to receive the necessary education to become specialists in the field of teaching students with Dyslexia.

I am a lifelong resident of Connecticut and married 32 years to a man diagnosed with Dyslexia only recently. He struggled all his life with spelling and reading. His inability to read and write kept him back from promotions and advancements. With his creativity and mechanical talent, he has been able to carve himself a good living and successful retirement.

Our grandson, who lives in Connecticut, has Dyslexia as well and his parents have been fabulous with obtaining the necessary assistance that he needs, but it has been at a cost to their family. My grandson goes to a special school out of state, which requires many hours a day in travel for both our grandson and his parents as well as the financial cost. Not all Connecticut Dyslexic children are fortunate enough to have parents that are willing to afford the cost as well as the time.

Our Connecticut public school system needs to change and start to support students with Dyslexia. You can make the difference. Let's continue implementing the changes needed to have our schools provide the needed supports for Dyslexic children. Remember, 1 out of 5 children have Dyslexia. Let's mandate that all existing public school teachers have dyslexia training within the next year. Also, mandate that all new public school teachers must have dyslexia training before being hired. Additionally, require universal screening to provide for early identification and interventions.

Thank you for making a difference in our Connecticut children lives.

Marjorie Fuller-Supple
Haddam, CT