



Connecticut
Early Childhood
Alliance

Testimony of Merrill Gay
Executive Director, Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance
Before the Education Committee
March 11, 2015

Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann, members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Merrill Gay; I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance, a statewide membership organization committed to ensuring that all children in Connecticut are healthy, safe and ready for lifelong success.

I'm here today to speak in favor of S.B. 1054 AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA

The Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance believes strongly that early identification of problems and timely, appropriate, intervention to address them, are in the best interests of children and the taxpayers. The earlier we can identify and begin addressing problems, the smaller the gap that needs to be closed.

The Alliance supports the intent of SB 1054, but believes that it will be largely ineffective without the addition of language to require a universal screen for dyslexia. Far too many dyslexic children are still slipping through the cracks because school districts are not identifying them. There are effective strategies to help children with dyslexia learn to read, but when we don't identify which children need that support, we don't help them.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you and we look forward to working with the committee to strengthen the bill.