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RE:Senate Bill 317

I would like to present my math teacher's reasoning regarding SB 317. Dyslexia is the number one reading disability. One in five students has some degree of dyslexia. The law should insist that ALL teachers, NOT just reading teachers receive proper training to effectively instruct dyslexic students. Due to my son's dyslexia and my ongoing research and reading, I have become a much more effective teacher. I have learned how to use teaching methods that can reach 20% more learners, the dyslexic students, in my class. These students are known to be our future innovators, the problems solvers, the students who think outside the box. We need to invest in a Free and APPROPRIATE education for DYSLEXICS. Ironically, these are the students who generally will not score well on standardized tests, yet they are made to suffer through countless hours of boring test preparation during a typical school year. I have refused to ever subject any of my student's time with me to that classroom environment. It erodes a love and passion for learning.

Since over 80% of Speech and Language Disabled students are dyslexic this needs to be a primary focus for any reading teacher. For years, these students have not been properly diagnosed; therefore, they have frequently been "treated" with reading programs that do not work. My son spent K-4 grade in non-evidence based programs with teachers who were not properly trained to address his dyslexia. My husband and I both work full time. I tutor other students to pay for my son's tutoring. I am literally exhausted every evening, and so is my son who has to go to private OG tutoring after a full day of school. If he had received the proper intervention in K-3, my son who has a superior IQ, twice gifted. would not have the lagging skills that he does today. On average, families with children with LD pay 15K a year to supplement their child's schooling.

The most upsetting part of Tristan's story is the emotional fall out of this journey. By the end of fifth grade, he was so down trodden by his lack of progress and his peers' and yes some teachers perception that he was stupid that he refused to go to school for his final month of fifth grade. This had a major impact on his self-esteem and social well-being. Our family continues to fight for every child's rights to deserve the education they deserve. We are a nation that has failed a huge population of students, not because we do not know what to do, but because we refuse to invest in what matters. Proper teacher education is a step in the direction

of closing the achievement gap. Why oh why as a nation do we thinking testing an education system, that works for only a certain sector of the population will improve the education system? INVESTING in scientific, evidence-based programming, now that makes sense!!!