

Testimony for SB 317 An Act Concerning Dyslexia

Testimony From:

Joanna Cooper  
4 Shadow Lane  
Norwalk, CT 06851

Parent of a student with Dyslexia

CT Certified Teacher

Former Member of the *State Advisory Council on Special Education 2004-2012*

Former Committee Member *CT's System of General Supervision and Focus Monitoring 2004-2012*

Dear Education Committee:

Thank you for your continued attention and work towards helping students with Dyslexia. I support SB 317 but am requesting that you make it stronger. Much headway was made with the fairly recent unanimously passed SB 1054 Dyslexia Bill. With SB317 you recognize there is more work to be done to see that students with Dyslexia receive the help they need to read and they CAN learn to read. Sadly, neither Higher Education nor School Districts are adequately training teachers to teach reading. This is especially the case for those with Dyslexia. It is going to take strong legislation to see that there is proper teacher preparation for the task at hand.

I am requesting that SB317 include the following amendments:

- Teacher preparation must align with evidence based standards that are proven to be effective.
- The Remedial Reading (102) Endorsement must align with IDA Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers.
- I am requesting comprehensive teacher preparation programming. One course is NOT enough. A concentration of coursework using evidence based curriculum at the undergraduate and graduate level must take place in Connecticut Institutions of Higher Education regarding the literacy instruction for students with Dyslexia.
- More accountability needs to occur in school districts to assure that there is adequately trained staff.

Thank you for your consideration and work on behalf of students with Dyslexia.

Sincerely,

Joanna Cooper