

February 28, 2016

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a written testimony regarding Senate Bill No.317, an Act Concerning Dyslexia.

The bill, as written, would not provide the comprehensive training that is needed to instruct a dyslexic student. One course will not prepare a teacher to successfully remediate a student with dyslexia.

I am a resident of Lebanon, CT., and instruct students with dyslexia as a Professional Educational Therapist. I am an Orton-Gillingham Multisensory Structured Language Practitioner. My training involved 160 hours of coursework along with 300 hours of a supervised practicum over a three year period.

A remedial reading (102) endorsement should be a graduate level program which aligns with the International Dyslexia Association's Practice Standards for training specialists who instruct dyslexic students. Coursework should be focused on teaching structured literacy, along with supervised teaching practice.

Our students with dyslexia deserve a teacher who has sufficient knowledge and training in approaches that will remediate their reading difficulties. Many children have already wasted too many years with teachers who were well meaning, but unfortunately ill prepared, to address their dyslexia.

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