Tiffany E. Williams

From: Keith dawley [kadawley@att.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 7:25 AM
To: Tiffany E. Williams
Subject: 2nd Dawley testimony

On Mar 1, 2016, at 7:15 AM, Keith dawley <kadawley@att.net> wrote:

This testimony is being submitted for you electronic records. I will providing oral testimony at the hearing along with 35 copies of my testimony for the legislators.

My name is Nicholas Dawley and I attend fifth grade at Mohegan Elementary School in Montville. Having dyslexia does not just mean that you read slower and reverse letters. You have trouble in all areas of school. One of my biggest problems in school is my teachers in classes do not understand my dyslexia. For a long time I have wanted them to teach me the way that I want to learn, the way that would be effective for me and many people who learn like me. My mom and dad are my biggest advocates. They have to remind the school what I need and remind them often, to shorten my work. Every part of my school work takes me longer than a student without dyslexia. Some teachers think I am not trying when actually I am giving my best effort. It makes me feel bad about myself and sometimes I want to give up. I think my teachers want to help me but don't know how. All teachers should get training about dyslexia because more people are effected by it than any other learning disability.

I begin my school day an hour before my friends do for my Wilson program. I did begin this until the beginning of forth grade. The Wilson program has been helpful because it retaught me how to read. I am glad my Wilson teacher is able to come to my school to work with me. There wasn't any trained teachers to teach dyslexics how to read before she came. She went to school for many years to teach kids like me. She calls herself a word scientist and she says I am one too. I wish all of my teachers understood me like she does. I needed this special program to teach me how to read because before it, I did not make any progress in the schools regular reading program. I think kids should be tested for dyslexia in first grade. I would not have had to do all these extra hours of school if I could have gotten what I needed when I started school. Thank you.