

This testimony is being submitted for your electronic records. I will be providing oral testimony and will bring the required 35 copies to the hearing.

Hi. I am Lily Farrell. I am 11-years-old and go to Essex Elementary School. I have dyslexia. Here is my story: During the summers, I get tutoring from a teacher who is trained to teach students with dyslexia. When I am with my tutor, Mrs. Coles, I feel good and proud. I gain a lot of new reading skills and I am confident about what I am learning. She has structure to her lessons. I am an unorganized person, but with Mrs. Coles, I don't have to worry because everything makes sense. She is also very encouraging. She knows exactly what I need to learn next, and how she will teach it to me. This makes me feel like I can be successful. I don't ever feel dumb with Mrs. Coles.

During the school year, I get my reading instruction from my Special Education teacher. It feels very different than how I learn from Mrs. Coles. I love my teacher, but I feel like I don't learn anything new with her. We just spend the year reviewing what I learned over the summer. This makes me feel bad because I want to keep learning the reading skills I need to become a good reader. I really have a passion for social studies and history, but I can't show it because I am too nervous raise my hand to read the social studies book out loud. I wish that I could make progress with my reading all year long. I want to feel smart all year, not just in the summer. I wish that my Special Ed teacher could learn to teach me the way Mrs. Coles teaches me.

I respectfully ask that you support changing Senate Bill 317. It is really important that teachers have the right kind of training to teach kids with dyslexia. Thank you for allowing me to testify.