

February 29, 2016

RE: Testimony for SB 317

Honorable Education Committee Members:

Dyslexic kids represent between 8% to 20% of the student body and 35% to 40% of kids in SLD/Dyslexia in Special Ed. Given those numbers, Senate Bill 317, An Act Concerning Dyslexia is woefully insufficient.

The most positive thing about SB317 is that it validates something parents have been complaining about—and prevailing in mediation hearings at—for years. **SB317, as written, is a tacit admission that previous to this, it was not a given that an educator seeking a 'Remedial Reading, Remedial LA, Reading Consultant or an initial Educator certificate' took even the most basic of courses on how to identify and/or instruct a kid with dyslexia.**

The following clarifications and specifications should be included in SB317:

- Comprehensive teacher preparation using evidence based curriculum and graduate level content **MUST** take place in Connecticut Institutions of Higher Education regarding the literacy instruction for students with Dyslexia.
- Teacher preparation must align with evidence based standards that are proven to be effective.
- IDA Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading, should be aligned with the Remedial Reading (102) Endorsement.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Sue Haynie
NorwalkSEKS
Norwalk, CT