

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL NO. 317
AN ACT CONCERNING DYSLEXIA
WITH AMENDMENTS**

To the Members of the Education Committee:

I am a resident of Naugatuck, Connecticut, and program director of Literacy Volunteers of Greater Waterbury. I would like to express my support of Senate Bill No. 317, An Act Concerning Dyslexia with an amendment to insure adequate teacher preparation to instruct students with dyslexia.

In my nearly 30 years of working with adults with low literacy skills as, first, a volunteer literacy tutor and, now, program director of Literacy Volunteers of Greater Waterbury, I have come to realize how extremely important it is for children to receive intensive, effective literacy instruction to meet their special needs.

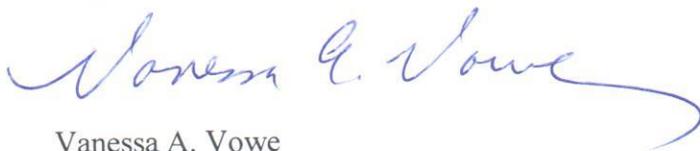
Without effective instruction, children with dyslexia will struggle and continuously fall behind in their studies throughout their years in school and many will, eventually, become the adults in our communities who have dropped out of school, who are unable to pursue higher education, who cannot obtain living wage employment, who cannot function independently to read signs at the grocery store, fill out forms at the doctor's office, read a driver's manual--and this list of alarming facts goes on.

However, the key to effective instruction for students with dyslexia is a well trained instructor. To master teaching approaches and strategies appropriate for children with dyslexia—and to teach them with **fidelity**--a teacher requires sufficient hours of study and practice with specialized teaching methods. If we do not properly prepare our teachers to meet the learning needs of students with dyslexia, we will continue to see children grow into adults who struggle in life due to limited literacy skills.

I ask that you support Bill No. 317, but please amend the bill to insure that **candidates seeking a remedial reading endorsement complete a graduate level program aligned with evidence-based practices and the IDA Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading.**

Thank you for addressing the learning needs of children with dyslexia in our public schools.

Respectfully submitted,



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