

March 1, 2016

Subject: "Testimony" SB 317

To whom it may concern:

This is my written testimony and I will not be testifying at the hearing.

I wish it to be known that my family and I support SB 317, An Act Concerning Dyslexia but are requesting an amendment 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.

I am the mother of 10-year-old twin girls, both of which are dyslexic. It became evident early on that one really struggled in school and the resources/extra help were ineffective. RSD 6 reading programs were only geared towards struggling readers, forcing us to pay for outside tutoring for her. After spending countless resources and time we realized that our school district had no intention of providing an adequate evidence based program for our more severely dyslexic daughter. Through mediation an agreement was reached to have her outplaced at a school which specializes in Dyslexia. She is thriving in this new environment, and loves going to school. Unfortunately, since we are still required to pay a sizeable piece of the tuition it is causing a financial strain on our family. Now our other daughter who has also been diagnosed is showing increased signs of struggling with writing and spelling. The thought of going down the same road and being forced to dole out thousands of dollars that we do not have is stressful to say the least.

Since my one daughter has been outplaced our school did send a special ed teacher to a 30-hour course in OG, but it is the bare minimum and there are no certified proctors to ensure she is teaching the students correctly. To increase my frustration, she has been deemed the expert and is training other teachers. While the initial intent was good the program falls short from being effective. As far as our school is concerned they are providing an adequate program and have no intention of having any of the teachers seek certification in an evidence based program.

It is clear that the school system relies on the fact that parents do not have either the time or money to fight the system, and they blatantly do a disservice to our children. With 1 out of 5 people being Dyslexic it is time the schools start providing a free and appropriate public education to our children.

Please consider supporting an amendment to SB317.

Regards,

Wendy M. Teran

Goshen, CT

