

Megan Aversano
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214 Main St.
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March 15, 2017

Re: HB 7254

To the Members of the Education Committee:

My name is Megan Aversano, and I live in Southbury, Connecticut. I fully support HB 7254, An Act Requiring Special Education Teachers to Complete a Program of Study in Evidence-Based Structured Literacy Interventions for Students with Dyslexia. I submit my testimony as an educator who has worked with dyslexic children for the past 17 years.

Even with all the opinions surrounding the origins of reading difficulties, there is no argument that dyslexia is a difficulty with words or language that will remain with an individual for his or her entire lives. It may have various manifestations from preschool to adulthood and will affect people both in and out of school. Without teacher advocates, skill development and motivational drive, dyslexic students may not be able to meet academic challenges and may fall short of realizing their dreams.

I am in full support of the call of HB 7254 for a "Program of Study" in Dyslexia for special educators within Institutes of Higher Education; for teacher preparation for special educators with evidence-based structured literacy, along with a requirement for supervised practicum hours, which is critical; and, to allow for special education teachers to receive Dyslexia training as pre-service teacher candidates, before they graduate and reach our local school districts. Those steps are essential to meet the critical needs of students with Dyslexia and would benefit all learners in the State of Connecticut.

It is with a great sense of urgency that I respectfully request that you pass HB 7254. It is only through the use of the evidence-based approaches coupled with the right training and practicum experiences that we will see changes in reading outcomes in our schools.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Aversano