

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

My name is Ewa Ciaffaglione, I live in Plantsville, 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 support HB 7254 as it calls for a "Program of Study" in Dyslexia, for special educators within Institutes of Higher Education.

I support HB 7254 as it aligns teacher preparation for special educators with evidence-based structured literacy, along with a requirement for supervised practicum hours, which is critical.

I support HB 7254 which allows special education teachers to receive Dyslexia training as pre-service teacher candidates, before they graduate and reach our local school districts. I support HB 7254 as it is essential to meet the critical needs of students with Dyslexia.

I am a mother of 3 children, each of which has been diagnosed with dyslexia. But that was only the beginning of the battle. The school districts do not have properly trained staff to support and educate children with dyslexia. The struggle for families like us is real. Don't be just listen to a one side. My twin boys left 5th grade reading on a first grade reading level, that was with reading interventions. We placed them at a private school and their reading levels in less than a year have improved dramatically. My daughter will be entering high school in the fall, when we attended the open house and spoke with the high school team, they told us that my daughter would no long be receiving reading interventions (the Wilson program) because they don't teach that at the high school. So now what? More battles with her team to get her the correct help she needs. We are not the only ones!!! Changes need to be made and in place to help children with dyslexia.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB 7254.

Thank you

Ewa and Dean Ciaffaglione