

My name is Joe Davenport. I am 18 years old a recent graduate Vinal Technical High School in Middletown CT. I am proudly dyslexic.

I live in Durham Connecticut and I fully support HB7254, An act requiring Special Education Teachers to Complete as program of study in Evidence-Based Literacy Interventions for Students with Dyslexia.

I was diagnosed in 7th grade, at that time I was reading on a third grade level and decoding on a kindergarten level. I was and am the perfect example of how a kid can just slip through the cracks in today's public school system, and why teachers at all levels need to understand Dyslexia.

I want to thank the Education Committee for their support over the last three years for dyslexics like myself. These steps are just the beginning in helping dyslexic students, and keeping others from experiencing some of the difficulties I have had.

Dyslexics are bright, creative people. With our disability we use the front part of our brains where all the creative energy lies. With that you will find that dyslexics are outside of the box thinkers, and some of your most brilliant members of society.

What we dyslexics need is your help in teaching teachers on how to teach us.

Teaching what some may call 'normal students' the way dyslexics learn wouldn't be teaching them any less. I'd like to see these practices become part of everyday learning.

I ask you to consider HB7354, consider the ripple effect your actions will have.

Thank you

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