

March 14, 2017

My name is Lisa Davenport from Durham CT, and I fully support HB7254, an act requiring Special Education Teachers to Complete a program of study in Evidence-Based Literacy Interventions for Students with Dyslexia.

As a daughter of a teacher and a sister to three more teachers, I understand somewhat that when educational bills that are passed for a specific special need, they many times can create mandates and regulations that can become daunting and at times overwhelming. This will eventually make teachers jobs easier in the long run.

My father, sister and my son Joey are all dyslexic. My son wasn't diagnosed until 7th grade with severe dyslexia. At that time he was reading on a 3rd grade level, and decoding on a kindergarten level. How does a child get this far on so little?

This bill will help students just like Joey. Imagine a world of students where various talents shine, where students can learn not only from the teacher but from each other. Where these beautiful dyslexic minds are on the same playing field as the so called normal mind. Where dyslexics begin to teach others a new perspective on various different problems and subjects.

It is possible, and we can achieve it. We need to train our teachers to identify students with dyslexia, to understand its challenges and embracing their abilities.

This is our future we are talking about, 20% or 1 in 5 students are dyslexic and that is a growing number. Consider who these gifted students will become, currently 35% of wildly successful entrepreneurs are dyslexic. Dyslexics are engineers, film makers, architects, lawyers and even political leaders.

As a dyslexic my gift has served me well. I have built a very successful design business here in CT. Yet I still struggle every day, I've learned to compensate and highlight my individual talents and on occasion when I'm really in a jam blame my dyslexia!

I encourage you to remember to strides we have made for dyslexia here in CT in the last 3 years. We can not turn back now, we must continue to assist teachers in learning how to teach such talented, beautiful minds.

Lisa Davenport