

This is my written testimony and I will not be testifying at the hearing. My name is Katie Dwelly, I live in Vernon, 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 am providing written testimony because of my 8 year old son Dillon. We have seen progress in Dillon's ability to read and write, once he was working with a special education teacher who received training in an evidence-based structured literacy intervention. It is for this reason, I feel special education teachers should receive Dyslexia training before they reach local school districts. Dyslexia is the most common learning disability and reason children struggle to learn to read. Special education teachers need to be able to provide interventions early to Dyslexic students, in order for them to have the same opportunity to read at grade level as their non-dyslexic peers. Many school districts feel overwhelmed by cost and time of training special education teachers. This should be a requirement in higher education so special education teachers can start working with Dyslexic students on the first day they are hired.

Thank you,
Katie Dwelly