

March 14, 2017

Dear Members of the House,

My name is Betty Granata and I live in Norwalk, Connecticut. I fully support HB 7254, An Act Requiring Special Education for Teachers to Complete a Program of Study in Evidence-based Structured Literacy and Interventions for Students with Dyslexia. As the mother of two children who are Dyslexic, the need to have teachers educated in recognizing the signs and symptoms of dyslexia, as well as trained in specific research-based reading interventions, is imperative. Failing to recognize the early signs and understanding the steps required to assist, leaves these children at a huge disadvantage and seriously behind their non-disabled peers.

According to the NCLD.org's State of LD report. *"Seven out of 10 parents, educators and members of the general public incorrectly link learning disabilities with intellectual disability ("mental retardation") and autism. Half or more of school administrators do so as well."* This to me states we have a problem in the sheer fact most educators and administrators are lacking in basic understanding and the knowledge required to correctly identify children with dyslexia in our school systems.

As a parent of two children with Dyslexia I've witnessed this first hand, and have had to not only take it upon myself to have my children identified, but also provide them the necessary research-based reading interventions in order to learn to read... something I would have hoped as a tax payer at the very least could have relied on a public school system to provide my children.

I strongly urge you to pass HB 7254.

Sincerely,

Betty K. Granata
Norwalk Resident