

Honorable Education Committee Members:

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

My name is Sue Haynie and I live in Norwalk, CT. 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.

HB 7254 calls for a "Program of Study" in Dyslexia, for Special Educators within Institutes of Higher Education. *Given that 35%+/- of Connecticut special ed students are SLD/Dyslexic, costing districts a fortune, one wonders why this hasn't already been done?*

HB 7254 aligns teacher preparation for special educators with evidence-based structured literacy, along with a requirement for supervised practicum hours, which is critical. *Given that the majority of special ed kids, regardless of their disability, struggle with reading failure, one wonders why this hasn't already been done?*

HB 7254 will allow special Education teachers to receive Dyslexia training as pre-service teacher candidates, before they graduate and reach our local school districts. *Given district time constraints on in-service training and the exorbitant costs/liabilities related to poorly implemented IEP's, one wonders why this hasn't already been done?*

HB 7254 is essential to meet the critical needs of students with Dyslexia.

Sincerely,

Sue Haynie

Norwalk, CT