

My name is Addisyn Herdic, and I live in Lebanon, CT. I'm in 5th grade at The Rectory School. I am Dyslexic and Dysgraphic. I 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. ALL teachers and people going to school to become teachers, need to have a "Program of Study", so that they can teach kids like me. However, it is important to start somewhere, and Special Education teachers need a lot more training when it comes to Dyslexia.

Last summer my parents discovered The Rectory School. I went to a couple weeks of summer school, and in those couple weeks regained my love for school. The teachers were so supportive and they knew about dyslexia and dysgraphia. There were other students there that learned like I did. I didn't feel so different. My parents decided to continue my education at The Rectory School for 5th grade. I am in a small class which makes learning much easier for me. My teacher, Mrs. Fluckinger, is amazing. If I don't understand things one way, she can teach them to me a different way. I get to go to all the subjects I love, because tutoring time is built into my schedule. I work with my Orton Gillingham tutor on all my subjects because my dyslexia affects all my subjects, not just reading and writing. She gives me strategies and teaches me using multisensory techniques. She helps me with reading with a systematic, phonetic approach. I am now able to read books that I actually enjoy and are written for kids my age. I also have a class for study skills to help me with organization.

Being in a school with well trained teachers has made such a difference for me. Not only have my skills improved, but I enjoy learning, and feel good about myself. It has been life changing for me. I do miss my friends in my old school. I hope that kids in the future can get the amazing education I am getting at all schools. I hope that they are given help at the first sign of struggle, because the teachers will be knowledgeable. I hope that when they are taken out of class, the time they spend getting intervention will be effective for dyslexia, because otherwise it is a waste of their time. Dyslexic kids like me can accomplish great things. We cannot

reach our potential without the skills required to read and write. The research is very clear and thorough regarding what methods work. We need you to pass this bill so that those methods are required for all teachers. Thank you so much for your time.