



Testimony by the Connecticut Association for the Gifted  
House Bill 7254                      Hartford, CT, March 16th, 2017

On behalf of the Connecticut Association for the Gifted (CAG), **I am writing in support of HB 7254**, which requires that applicants for professional educator certificate, or special education endorsement complete a program of study in the diagnosis and remediation of reading and language arts, including practicum hours and instruction in the detection and recognition of dyslexia.

For many years, CAG has been advocating for the academic and social emotional needs of Twice Exceptional students, students that are both gifted and academically challenged, sometimes classified as “disabled with high cognition.” Many, perhaps even as many as 50%, of dyslexic students are also gifted. However, these students are usually not being placed in gifted programs because their reading difficulties often hide their high ability in areas in which gifted programs in schools are offered. At the same time, because these students compensate for their reading disability with acute analytical, reasoning and comprehension skills, their need to receive properly adjusted reading instruction is often not recognized. As a result, if dyslexic students’ giftedness is not identified and their reading disability is not properly detected, these youngsters may end up being “twice misdiagnosed.” Having all teachers complete a “program of study” in the diagnosis and remediation of reading and language arts, including practicum hours and instruction in the detection and recognition of dyslexia, as required by HB 7254, is of utmost importance.

Research shows that students whose special needs, be it a disability or giftedness, are not properly met in school will tend to register higher levels of behavioral problems and underachievement than the general population of their peers. This is especially manifest in under-funded communities in the state.

We are in full support of the testimony presented by the Decoding Dyslexia organization of Connecticut, and ask that you pass the HB 7254 to help all dyslexic children in our state.

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