

To the member of the Education Committee,

My name is Dr. Elizabeth Lynch, I live in Greenwich, 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 have three school age children, two have been diagnosed with dyslexia. Both children received ineffective and inadequate instruction in their local school. My husband and I made the decision to privately pay for specialized education for language-based learning disabilities at the Windward School in White Plains NY. Although the tuition is steep, it has made all the difference in the world to our two children. We notice the most improvement in our youngest daughter who has been at Windward since the second grade. She will be leaving the school to attend 6th grade at a competitive private school. She is an avid reader and a straight A student.

Windward exclusively uses evidence-based interventions to teach children with dyslexia how to read and write. I would recommend that all special teachers needing instruction in the art of teaching dyslexic students, to attend the Windward Teachers Training Institute, a series of classes offered throughout the year on specific teaching techniques. I have attended several seminars, as a parent, and have found them to be very well structured and full of useful and science based information about how the brain learns.

I have been a volunteer in two public elementary schools in Greenwich over the past 5 years, working in literacy education. I have observed that the methods used to teach reading lead to a very uneven result, with the class stratified into above average, average and well below grade level readers. I feel that this is due to the lack of identification of dyslexic children at an early age (6 years). The methods used in the classroom are very different from those I have observed being used at Windward, and I feel that this is the main reason for academic failure in the public schools. Perhaps HB 7254 will help teach the teachers to use effective methods for interventions in the case of language-based learning disabilities.

I have watched my own children struggle in poorly taught classrooms. I have tried as a volunteer to help other children that are suffering as mine did. Now is the time to act and implement effective teaching methods that are evidence based

Thank you.

Elizabeth Lynch

