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SENATE

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Education Committee
March 16, 2017
LOB 2C 10:30 AM

In Support of House Bill 7254

An Act Requiring Special Education Teachers to Complete a Program of Study in Evidence-Based Structured Literacy Interventions for Students with Dyslexia

Chairwoman Slossberg, Chairman Fleischmann, Chairwoman Boucher, and distinguished members of the Education Committee, thank you for hearing House Bill 7254. I am here to testify on HB 7254, *An Act Requiring Special Education Teachers to Complete a Program of Study in Evidence-Based Structured Literacy Interventions for Students with Dyslexia*.

My name is Cathy Osten and I represent the 19th Senate District, which includes the towns of Columbia, Franklin, Hebron, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Marlborough, Montville, Norwich, and Sprague.

Similar to Proposed Senate Bill 715 that Representative Terrie Wood and I proposed earlier this year, HB 7254 seeks to strengthen our state's teacher prep programs by requiring current and prospective teachers complete a course of study and have supervised practicum hours in the detection and recognition of, and evidence-based structured literacy interventions for, students with dyslexia. Under the leadership of this committee, we have had success in recent years with improving the standards for our children's teachers. With HB 7254 and other measures, we can ensure that no student, including those with special needs, is left behind.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on this legislation. I look forward to working with the leadership and members of this committee on improving the quality of education for our students with dyslexia.