

Sharon Plante
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March 15, 2017

Re: HB 7254

To the Members of the Education Committee:

My name is Sharon Plante, and I live in Ansonia, 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 submit my testimony as an educator who has worked with dyslexic children for the past 20 years.

I am passionate about ensuring that students with dyslexia get the instruction that research has proven is effective. Through my work at EHSS, as well as talking with professionals on my podcast, I am very aware that is imperative we get the right teacher training to support these learners, and we know what that training is. If we provide the teachers the right training so they can provide the evidence-based intervention, we would help so many more children so that they do not struggle academically and emotionally.

I am in full support of the call of HB 7254 for a "Program of Study" in Dyslexia for special educators within Institutes of Higher Education; for teacher preparation for special educators with evidence-based structured literacy, along with a requirement for supervised practicum hours, which is critical; and, to allow for special education teachers to receive Dyslexia training as pre-service teacher candidates, before they graduate and reach our local school districts. Those steps are essential to meet the critical needs of students with Dyslexia and would benefit all learners in the State of Connecticut.

It is with a great sense of urgency that I respectfully request that you pass HB 7254. It is only through the use of the evidence-based approaches coupled with the right training and practicum experiences that we will see changes in reading outcomes in our schools.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon LePage Plante