

March 16, 2017

My name is Jack Quirion, I am 13 years old and have dyslexia. I fully support 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.

When I was in 2nd grade I was identified as having Dyslexia. I had a Special Education teacher that I saw everyday one on one. She would have me try and read passages over and over again. When I did this, I didn't do very well and I didn't understand what she was telling me. She often said that if I didn't finish on time, that I couldn't go to lunch or recess with everyone else until I was done. One time I didn't even go to lunch because I didn't finish on time and had to eat in class.

The next year I received a new Special Education teacher and he also tried to teach me how to read. He had me read different passages as well. He also tried to teach me how to sound out words and I sort of understood it but then the next week I didn't understand it at all. I felt depressed and sad because I had to skip activities that the class was doing. It was very frustrating learning how to read as I didn't understand the way he was teaching me.

Once I entered a school for kids with learning difference everything made sense. I know how to read and spell now. This year I entered a traditional school and love it! I still receive support from an Orton Gillingham tutor daily, which helps me a lot!

I hope you pass this bill because Special Education teacher need to know how to teach dyslexic students!

Jack Quirion
Student