

March 16, 2017

My name is Luke Quirion, I am 16 years old and have a brother with Dyslexia and a mom who advocates for students with 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.

I am submitting testimony because my brother has Dyslexia, and I have seen what the lack of teacher training does, or rather doesn't do, for students with Dyslexia. Before my family or the school knew anything about my brother having Dyslexia, he couldn't read even though he was in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Even after he was diagnosed, nothing seemed to change much until he left public school. My brother, while still in public school, was getting help from outside tutors before and after school and on the weekends. Even with this help, he didn't seem to be improving with all the extra help he was getting.

After my brother left public school for an LD school in Massachusetts, I noticed he was much happier. He started to read on his own more and had less things being read to him. I also saw that he had to get up earlier and my parents would need to drive him every day to Massachusetts.

My brother probably would never have learned to read if he hadn't had teachers who understood his disability and taught him the way he learned. This is why we need teachers in college to receive an education in Dyslexia, so that they know how to meet the needs of Dyslexic students in our schools. If this were to happen, students with Dyslexia may not need to leave their public schools.

Please pass HB 7254 so students like my brother do not need to leave their schools!

Luke Quirion  
Student