

My name is Elizabeth Rickey, and I live in Southbury, Ct. 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.

As a special education teacher in the 1960's, I failed to teach my sweet, wonderful, intelligent dyslexic students how to read because I was untrained in the specific methods that work for them. I was so frustrated and discouraged I left teaching.

In 1990, I received Orton-Gillingham training, and I have been successfully teaching dyslexic children how to read since then. In fact, two of my students did not need special education services at all because we began working together when they were in kindergarten.

These students need teachers who have been trained in evidence-based programs specifically for dyslexic students. We have come so far in Connecticut in recognizing these students. Please don't let them down now by ignoring the requirements to teach them effectively.

This is my written testimony and I will not be testifying at the hearing.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Rickey,

AOGPE certified instructor

Southbury, CT