

Re: 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 Susan Santora and I live in Guilford, Connecticut. I am the founder of Learning House, LLC, established in the early 1980's. Learning House is a business with a mission to teach individuals with Dyslexia using systematic instruction at the student's instructional level. The instruction has been very successful and is very similar to Structured Literacy Intervention. Learning House has also trained many teachers to use the instructional approach.

I strongly recommend HB7254 because it will:

- address a "Program of Study" in Dyslexia for Special Educators within our colleges of Higher Education
- aligns teacher preparation for special educators that also has the requirement of a supervised practicum
- will allow Special Education teachers to receive Dyslexia training as pre-service teacher candidates before they graduate and go into our local school districts
- be essential to students with Dyslexia to learn to read, spell, and write
- save students from being embarrassed, ashamed, or acting out.

Over time, hundreds of students with dyslexia have benefited from the instructional approach at Learning House so we know it works. So many more students would benefit if public school teachers learned how to implement Evidence-Based Structured Literacy Interventions for Students with Dyslexia. Please help the many students with dyslexia from having poor self esteem, embarrassment because they cannot read or write, and act out to cover up their literacy difficulties in spite of having average to above average intelligence, or quit school as they get older. Public school is where this instruction belongs and my plea is that you pass the HB7254 bill to support an appropriate reading, spelling, and writing intervention for our Connecticut students to learn to read, spell, and write.

Respectfully,

Susan Santora F/AOGPE, former owner and now Clinical Advisor of Learning House