

**SUPPORT HB 7254, with Written Testimony, "This is my written testimony and I will not be testifying at the hearing."**

- **My name is Annette Shelbrack; I live in Simsbury, 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 have worked as a special education teacher for over 20 years. I have worked with staff members who were adamant that Dyslexia did not exist. Dyslexia is a reality that can no longer be ignored, we need training for teachers on how to assess and teach children who may have Dyslexia. I am a firm believer in being well versed with any information that could help my students to succeed. Workshops on Dyslexia may be offered, but not every school district is in the financial position to grant attendance to Professional Development Workshops. Schools districts are instead forming Dyslexia committees who in turn are supposed to provide information and instruction to the teachers. Although, committees may be formed, information may not be accessible to all teachers in the form of school PD. PD days are usually determined by the administration for teachers; it is not a matter of choice. Moving forward, it is imperative that special education teachers are equipped to meet the needs of all our special education population before we enter a school district. One way to ensure this will happen is to pass HB-7254. In addition, there has to be some accountability that districts will provide opportunities for current teachers to receive training.**