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My name is William T. Supple, I am a life long residents within the State of Connecticut and reside in Haddam, CT. 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 thank you for all that you have done to move higher education to include curriculum and programming in Dyslexia! Special Education teachers are currently leaving College with a Master's Degree unable to meet the needs of students with Dyslexia. These teachers service our most vulnerable students; yet receive the least amount of training. I am pleased to see that HB 7254 will provide for a program of study for Special Education Teachers and address this critical need!

It is hard to believe that since I was in the public school system in Hartford, Connecticut we still haven't implemented appropriate reading interventions for kids with Dyslexia. When I was in school I struggled with reading and spelling. I thought I was the problem. Ten years ago, I was given the diagnosis of Dyslexia and learned it wasn't me it was an "instructional disability". It solidified the fact that I wasn't stupid – I just needed to be instructed differently than "the public school system" method.

My grandson has experienced the same experiences as I did. How frightening to think this inability to teach teachers how to meet the literacy needs of students with Dyslexia still persists 50 years later!

Look to the science and adopt evidence-based practices in teacher preparation which can stem the implications to society and the emotional effects on our students. We should not wait for another generation to pass through the halls of our schools wondering, "Is it me?"

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