



*Reading for a lifetime of learning*

March 15, 2017

Legislative Office Building                      [edtestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:edtestimony@cga.ct.gov)  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT

Subject: **HB 7254 Written Testimony**

Dear CT Legislature Representatives:

My name is Donald Takacs. I am an educator and the Immediate Past President of the Dyslexia Society of Connecticut, Inc., a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit corporation. I live in Redding, Connecticut 06896.

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 support HB 7254 for the following reasons:

- It calls for a "Program of Study" in Dyslexia, for special educators within Institutes of Higher Education.
- It aligns teacher preparation for special educators with evidence-based structured literacy, along with a requirement for supervised practicum hours, which is critical.
- It allows special education teachers to receive Dyslexia training as pre-service teacher candidates, before they graduate and reach our local school districts.
- It is essential to meet the critical needs of students with Dyslexia.

HB 7254 is critically important for all of the reasons indicated above. Please do not mitigate the Connecticut legislative progress that has finally been made to address the educational needs of dyslexic children, which educators and legislators have worked so hard to enact.

Connecticut has already implemented myopic legislation that reduces or eliminates state financial support for education to our towns. Please move the educational process forward by providing the training and resources necessary to achieve informed interventions and attain universal literacy for our children.

Please pass this important legislation now to support the future of our children and Connecticut.

Respectfully,

*Donald K. Takacs*

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