

March 4, 2015

1629 Oak Avenue  
Haddon Heights NJ 08035

Dear Chair Roblan, Members of Senate Committee on Education:

I am writing to you as a citizen of New Jersey and a mother of 2 sons with dyslexia. I appreciate the opportunity to share my experience in New Jersey in the hopes of assisting Oregon in addressing dyslexia.

My story is similar to many stories of families across the country. Our children with dyslexia are not identified and fall behind. Sometimes we are discouraged from using the word 'dyslexia' in public school. And we find it difficult to receive appropriate evidence-based instructional interventions for dyslexia.

I am a founding member of a parent-led movement called Decoding Dyslexia New Jersey that was successful in supporting the passing of several dyslexia laws in our state; as well as, an appointed member of our NJ State Special Education Advisory Council.

[A3605/S2442 Dyslexia Screening Law](#) Requires that each student enrolled in public school who has exhibited one or more potential indicators of dyslexia or other reading disabilities is screened for dyslexia and other reading disabilities no later than the student's completion of the first semester of the second grade.

[A3606 Professional Development Law](#) Requires New Jersey Department of Education (DOE) to provide professional development opportunities requiring certain teaching staff members to annually complete at least two hours of professional development instruction on the screening, intervention, accommodation, and use of technology for students with reading disabilities, including dyslexia.

The passing of this legislation was a positive step towards raising dyslexia awareness in our schools and communities. I am thrilled to see that our state is beginning to take successful measures to ensure that our students and their teachers receive the assistance and tools they need. The New Jersey DOE is required to provide professional development opportunities related to reading disabilities, including dyslexia, to school district personnel.. I am proud to say that due to demand and the importance of the topic they have contracted with 2 local dyslexia related non-profit organizations to provide online training options and a 3 day training course in 3 locations throughout the state at their Learning Resource Centers.

I support Oregon's Senate Bill 612 that requires screening for the risk factors of dyslexia and annual teacher training for in-service teachers.

Sincerely,

*Deborah Lynam*