

March 11, 2015

Dear Chair Roblan and Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

I am writing to lend support for SB 612. My name is Kim Head and I am from Arkansas.

In 2013 Arkansas passed a dyslexia bill (Act 1294 formerly SB 33) through our state legislature. It was a bold law that was layered because we know that the cost of remediation is higher than the cost of early intervention.

The law includes 1) mandatory screening using DIBELS in K-2nd grade 2) intervention if a student shows characteristics of dyslexia using an evidence-based multi-sensory language approach 3) all teachers are required to have professional development on dyslexia and the science of what works for those with dyslexia 4) all colleges are required to offer course work in dyslexia and evidence-based interventions 5) the state department of education is required to hire a dyslexia specialist to oversee implementation and 6) a resource guide for districts is required to be written to help explain and supplement the law. The bill is found at this link: <http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2013/2013R/Acts/Act1294.pdf>

To date, I am thrilled to report the following results:

- Screening began this fall. The screener must contain certain components as listed in the law.
- Intervention begins this fall. 3 pilots using differing multi-sensory programs have been used in public school districts with great results.
- A specialist has been hired at ADE to oversee professional development. Teachers started to receive that this past year.
- 8 universities have submitted course work towards an endorsement in dyslexia therapy.
- The Arkansas Administrators Association has come back to the table to clarify some things in the law this session. Amendments are set to pass this session.

I am hopeful that you will find this information useful and that you choose to support dyslexia legislation in Oregon and change the lives of the 20% of students in your state.

Sincerely,

*Kim Head*

Director Decoding Dyslexia AR  
Dyslexia Therapist Catholic High School for Boys