

March 12, 2015

Dear Oregon Legislators and Senator Dembrow,

I write to encourage you to please do all you can to pass SB 612 on dyslexia. As many as 1 in 5 students suffer from dyslexia. Still Oregon's universities do not provide teacher training how to effectively teach these bright, eager and capable students. There is a knowledge gap that exists between what research has shown to be effective for students with dyslexia and with current practices in schools and teacher training across Oregon. We need early screening, teacher training and access to appropriate technologies.

Dyslexia runs in families. We have family history. In kindergarten, my son could not rhyme. These are signs that should have been caught early and addressed with multi-sensory learning approaches. This early intervention is critical to developing the neuro-pathways as they were just beginning to form. Instead, the problem was ignored, despite my expressed concerns. Without school districts willing to test and acknowledge "dyslexia," these students grow up, not really knowing why they (and their parents) struggle so much. It's a self-esteem issue. Thankfully, our ability to financially provide private intervention for him has helped level the playing field. However, all students should have access to these research based approach.

I appreciate your support of SB 612.

Many Thanks.

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