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**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2015 10:11 AM  
**To:** Engbring Gretchen  
**Subject:** SB 612 For the Record

To whom it may concern,

I am writing you in support of SB 612. I would like to share with you my daughter Melanie's story. Melanie is an extremely bright young girl which unfortunately is hindering her learning in certain areas. Melanie's reading and math skills are above average and because of this she is not getting the help she needs in other areas. Although Melanie's math skills are above average now when she reaches 3rd grade next year they will plummet and she will fall below average. Melanie has mirror imaging a learning disability that falls under the umbrella of dyslexia. For those of you who do not understand this Melanie reverses letters and numbers. Last year Melanie had the word ARE for 5 weeks straight because she kept spelling it AER. This went unnoticed by her teacher for 5 weeks. I honestly thought my daughter was just not paying attention or just being lazy. Until she broke down in tears and yelled at me " I know how to spell are", and then spelled it orally for me with no problem. I went to her teacher with these concerns who was very open and honest with me. She asked the learning specialist to test Melanie but because she was above average in the subjects that matter nothing was done. I spoke with the Principal who told me the same thing, and then called the school district who also told me that dyslexia is not a recognized learning disability and they were not required by law to test Melanie or offer services to her. Her teacher last year was amazing and came up with multiple solutions for Melanie. I began working at home with Melanie writing her spelling words on sand paper, and she began taking her spelling test orally. At the end of the year Melanie had reached 400 level words, she was spelling at a fourth grade level! Unfortunately none of the efforts made last year were put into Melanie's school records so this year we started all over again with the same problems. Her teacher this year does not have the time to test her orally, however she has agreed to grade Melanie's spelling test with her mirror imaging in mind. I attached a copy of Melanie's most recent spelling test so you could understand better what is going on.

Next year in math when Melanie starts solving equations and has to re-write numbers she will more than likely fail assignments and test. Although she will fully grasp how to solve equations her answers will always be wrong because she will be solving the equation with the wrong number. By supporting SB 612 you are supporting all the bright children like Melanie who have wonderful things in store for them and huge hurdles to jump to get to those wonderful things. I urge you to please support SB 612.