

Subject: SB 612 please read!

To whom it may concern,

Hello, I am writing to you let you know how much of a positive impact SB 612 would have on so many Oregon students. One of them being my 8 year old daughter who is in 2nd grade in the North Clackamas School District. My daughter Ruby has always struggled with letter recognition, colors, numbers. From the time I enrolled her in a private pre-school I could tell that something was going on. Everyone just kept saying she would "grow out of it" or "a lightbulb would go on". By the time that Ruby was well into her 1st grade year, still having a hard time even recognizing some letters and numbers the teachers sent her to the resource room for extra help, this helped but very little. This year I went into school the first week and asked for an IEP evaluation. By December Ruby's evaluations were completed and she was approved for an IEP. When Ruby is tested in a normal setting she tests at a low kindergarten level, when Ruby is tested orally she is at a 3rd grade or above level. We took Ruby to a dyslexia specialist since the state of Oregon IEP evaluations does not consider dyslexia in the scope of learning disabilities that they test for. I was told it is all under "one big umbrella" and that testing was just a waste of money because even if she did prove to have dyslexia that they would still teach her the same way.

My daughter did end up testing to be dyslexic, not only that but she proved to be a "severe to profound" case, that is on a scale of 1-10 my daughter is a 10.

My daughter started working with a private dyslexic tutor after school and a speech pathologist twice a week after school and within 8 weeks of being taught in the way her brain is wired to learn she is reading books!!! Yes, only 8 weeks!!! Dyslexic people learn differently, without schools providing tested and true programs such as the Barton Method and Orton Gillingham these bright, creative, insanely smart children are left to feel unworthy, frustrated, angry in the classrooms. This bill would open up so much opportunity for success for these children! I beg you to please advocate for this bill on all levels! I myself have seen the positive effects of labeling this learning disability, recognizing it, and helping the children to learn in the way that they need! 1 in 5 students have some form of dyslexia, some struggle more than others. My beautiful daughter has struggled so much and just now towards the end of her second grade year I see hope in her eyes, and a sense of pride in what she is able to do. Four weeks ago I sat with happy tears streaming down my face as my child read to me for the first time. There can be so many more success stories, not all children have the luxury of going to a private tutor, we as a community, as a society need to help them! I am so proud to be a life long resident of Oregon and to know that we are doing the right thing by our children.

Thank you for your time and have a wonderful day.

Sincerely,

Kaylee Mayeux

Damascus Oregon