

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Education Committee,

I am writing to encourage you to support, with amendments, the new screening legislation for Oregon schools as in SB 1003. I firmly believe that if my child had been screened, we could have addressed his challenges without spending \$13,000 out of pocket to teach my child to read. Thankfully, I have the financial resources to do this, however knowing that 20% of students suffer from some level of dyslexia, I'm sure that other families are not able to fund this effort.

Dyslexia screening should be included in public schools in kindergarten and first grade. When dyslexia is properly diagnosed, learning styles can be adjusted so that it is remedied early. This can save significant resources and save hundreds of children from self esteem issues associated with dyslexia.

Specifically, I would like to see family history be considered in the screening. I had brought this up to many teachers during elementary school and it was ignored because my son's performance wasn't "bad enough." Research shows that 50% of children with a family history of dyslexia suffer from it. If a family is aware of it, this should be considered in evaluation.

In addition, schools were scared to use the term "dyslexia" because it was not recognized as a learning disability by Portland Public Schools. I feel that schools should not shy away from using the specific term "dyslexia." In fact, we finally acknowledged my son's learning disability by name, he began to accept that he wasn't stupid. This was a huge benefit to his self esteem. We also saw an increased love of learning. He was no longer shying away from school.

I hope that you will consider these comments in your discussion about SB 1003.

Kind Regards,
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