

I am writing to you in opposition to SB 221, and specifically the removal of "that the instruction be consistent with the knowledge and practice standards of an international organization on dyslexia."

Our youngest child has not received the education she deserves. Throughout primary school, even though on an IEP, she showed zero growth in reading and writing. We had to spend thousands of dollars in outside tutoring during middle school in reading alone to see any growth. We had to pull her from her high school and she is now pursuing a GED, which is still a struggle. This should not have been her story. Meeting after meeting I would provide materials to her teachers about dyslexia, request actual research based services to provide remediation to get her to grade level. The lack of knowledge and services within our public education system surrounding dyslexia is shameful! The teachers were not trained on effective instruction for dyslexic students; had they been, I have to believe our daughter's story would be different. She would have felt success in school, she would have felt supported, she would have the self confidence to know that she is not stupid and that she can do anything. She once described it to me as sitting in a classroom, where you know one language, but everything is being taught in a foreign language that you don't know. This bill may not impact our daughter now, but if you can save children and families from the heartache that we have endured due to the lack of knowledge, education, and services available to dyslexic students and their families, then you CANNOT pass SB 221.

Sincerely,

Kesa Andrews