

Dear Legislature,

As someone who is forced to tutor students in my CAR since a library is too far to drive, (let alone the liability of driving others' children in my personal car), this bill is critically important. There are 2 important issues to think about when ruling on this legislation.

The first is that the schools will not let tutors in during the school day because of the FAPE law (Free and Appropriate Public Education Act, which is a federal law). If the school is deemed NOT to be providing free and appropriate public education, then the parents can sue the school district. The schools do not want to open themselves up to that sort of litigation.

The second more important issue is that children should learn to read during the school day, NOT as an extra curricular before or after school. Sally Shaywitz's world-recognized fMRI studies show that kids with dyslexia use 50% more brain energy than non dyslexics. This is a critically IMPORTANT issue, since our students cannot learn effectively after school. Their 6 hour day is really a 9 HOUR DAY, and most of that energy is expended hiding their disability!

It is PERFECTLY reasonable for a tutor to push in during silent reading, language arts, second language, eurhythmy, etc... It is much more difficult to tutor after school.

I will only tutor children during the day, since in my 10 years of tutoring, I am not as effective after 3pm! That means I have to sign the kids out from school and go to a local library, or if a library is too far, I have to tutor in my car.

I have not met one SPED teacher in PPS who has training in dyslexia, and yet 80% of their students are dyslexic. And yet, there I am freezing, or sweating in my car, while the UNTRAINED SPED teacher walks to her cozy office each day. There is something wrong with this picture. Either TRAIN the SPED teachers, or LET US IN!

Thanks for your time on this important bill.

Thank you especially to Arie Roblan who has been our hero on this issue!

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I am not interested in "well-intentioned" teachers. I am interested in WELL-TRAINED teachers.

We were all humans, until race disconnected us, religion separated us, politics divided us and wealth classified us. -Banksy