

Dyslexia Testimony
Brita Gibart

Good afternoon House Committee

My name is Brita Gibart, I am a currently a 4th grade teacher at North Trail Elementary in Farmington, Minnesota. I have both a Bachelor and Masters degrees from Hamline University. I have several years of teaching experience ranging from 2nd to 5th grade.

I have done a significant amount of research on the topic of dyslexia. In 2016, I wrote my final masters capstone project on dyslexia. My capstone was about training teachers to identify students with dyslexia.

I included researched based accommodations to help students be more successful in the classroom. I chose this pivotal topic because dyslexia affects around 1 out of 5 students. This is approximately 5-6 kids in each classroom.

Currently educators, reading interventionists and special education instructors are provided a very small amount of training on dyslexia.

Simply providing teachers with the definition and signs of what to look for are great first steps to helping students but it presents educators the dilemma of asking “now what?” How do I move forward with helping my student?

We are at such an introductory level of training educators to identify the signs but many teachers are hitting a road block when trying to figure out what they should be doing next to give students the appropriate accommodations.

There is an increased focus on the achievement gap and read well by 3rd grade we need to ensure that our teachers have the tools to meet the needs of ALL learners.

With this bill, we can provide educators with a toolkit of accommodations to meet the literacy needs of these learners so ALL learners can have grade level literacy success.

Here’s the thing, as teachers we go above and beyond to care about our students. We put everything we have into this profession.

The needs of our students actually keep us up at night and when we recognize there is a need, such as a student who may have dyslexia, we do whatever we can to help our precious kids.

It only makes sense to give all Minnesota teachers the tools to better equip them to meet the needs of ALL learners.