



**Sponsor Testimony**  
**State Representative Brian Baldrige**  
**House Bill 436**

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Chair Lehner, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony for House Bill 436 Dyslexia Screening. A neuro-cognitive disorder, dyslexia affects 20% of the population and is defined as an unexpected difficulty in learning to read. Right now roughly 350,000 students in Ohio have dyslexia, but unfortunately most don't know they have the condition until it's too late. Early screening and intervention has been proven to help dyslexic students learn to read and succeed in the classroom.

As parents of a dyslexic child, Lori and I know firsthand the frustration and anguish that comes with trying to find answers to why your child struggles to read. Alyson's condition went undiscovered for far too long, even in spite of Lori's experience and training as an educator

A number of Ohio school districts have already implemented screening for dyslexia and the results have been dramatic. These districts have seen an almost immediate improvement in reading competency and proficiency scores. The key is to identify students with dyslexia as early as possible and provide the necessary tools so they can learn to read. Most schools that offer dyslexia screening have been able to implement this at no additional cost. Districts can merely reallocate funds from programs that don't produce results to invest in a dyslexia screening and intervention program that not only improves overall reading scores but can even save money in the long run.

Another component of House Bill 436 will provide the tools our teachers need to be able to screen for dyslexia, but more importantly implement a program to help identified students learn to read. We are very excited to be working with members of the Senate to be tweaking parts of our legislation to align with Chair Lehner and Vice Chair Brenner's legislation.

Chair Lehner, Vice-Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for allowing us to provide sponsor testimony. I stand ready to answer any questions this committee may have.