

Ohio Senate Education Committee
Written Proponent Testimony in Support of HB 436
9/16/2020

I have two children with dyslexia. My son, James, who is almost 14 years old, was formally diagnosed by Dr. Andrew Colvin at the age of 6. My daughter, Grace, who is 9, was diagnosed by Dr. Steven Guy at the age of 7. My son attends public schools and my daughter goes to a private school.

Both children have been receiving Orton Gillingham approached interventions. I feel very fortunate that we were able to have our children evaluated by private neuro psychologists, as well as provide them with private tutoring. My son has an IEP through the public school system and my daughter has a learning plan at her private school. Having this diagnosis at a young age has enabled us to help insure the kids are getting appropriate assistance and interventions.

It saddens me to think of students and families that have limited resources and cannot financially afford private evaluations. The longer it takes for children to receive a diagnosis, the longer it takes for them to receive appropriate help. I would love to see early screenings for children in the public school setting, as well as more training for teachers. I feel this combination would help so many young struggling readers. It is imperative not only for a child's academic future, but also for their social and emotional development. I have witnessed my own children's frustrations and negative feelings toward themselves. It is heartbreaking. I can only imagine what some children must be going through.

It would be of great benefit to our society for all children to receive an early screening as well as formalized training for more teachers in the public school system.

Thank you,
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