



## Ohio Chapter

### Ohio Chapter

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November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Chairwoman Lehner and Members of the Senate Education Committee—

On behalf of the nearly 3,000 members of the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I am writing to express support for House Bill 436, sponsored by Representative Brian Baldrige. I believe that this bill will have an immediate and positive impact on children with dyslexia in Ohio.

As you know, HB 436 would establish the Ohio Dyslexia Committee and create many new resources and supports for teachers and school staff involved in identifying and serving children with dyslexia. Most notably, HB 436 would establish a statewide annual screening requirement that will ensure we identify as many children as possible in need of support. These policies are essential to helping Ohio children succeed in school.

The universal screening provision in HB 436 will ensure that children do not fall through the cracks. Once identified, students can receive services in school as well as through a pediatrician or other healthcare provider if required. In fact, many of my members partner with school districts in their communities to provide supports for students with individual needs.

Reading is vital lifelong skill and we all must do everything we can to support students with dyslexia and other learning disabilities. HB 436 accomplishes this goal. I hope that you will support Ohio's kids by passing this measure.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Wervey Arnold".

Melissa Wervey Arnold  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics