

March 3, 2025

Dear Chair Cwodsinski and Senate Education Policy Committee Members,

My name is Emily DeGrazia, my children attends/attended Mayo HS in Rochester Public School District and I live in Rochester, MN. I have two daughters with moderate Dyslexia.

I am writing to you as a concerned parent on behalf of my dyslexic children and all struggling readers to urge you to support the SF1842 that requires teachers to receive two hours of professional development on dyslexia for teacher licensure requirements.

We are fortunate to have been able to afford private tutoring, and to have access to the Rochester Reading Center in our community. However, the cost of testing is roughly \$1000. Private tutoring ended up costing around \$500 per month, per child. And each of my children had 3-4 years of tutoring. We have spent roughly \$50,000 of our own money to ensure our children can read. Considering Dyslexia affects nearly 1/5 people, most families would not have those extra resources for private tutoring. Our daughters, which have moderate dyslexia were never behind in school, despite the late diagnosis. If we didn't have the resources to pay for tutoring, we would have been obliged to allow them to fail in order to qualify for resources from the schools. However, with structured literacy, and teachers qualified to work with a variety of learning styles, they could have had a very successful integrated classroom experience. Many dyslexics, with the right curriculum will not need individual intervention. Besides the obvious savings for families and school districts, it has been shown that ALL readers do better with structured literacy and if their educators have an understanding of dyslexia.

Dyslexic students will benefit when they have teachers who understand the difficulties that they have. Without teacher understanding, dyslexic students are blamed for their struggle, rather than being helped. I urge you to support this small step toward helping the 20% of students in our schools who are dyslexic.

Sincerely,

Emily DeGrazia

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