

March 1, 2025

Dear Chair Cwodsinski and Senate Education Policy Committee Members,

My name is Melissa Bertling my child attends/attended school in Ramsey County District and I live in North Oaks, MN.

I am writing to you as a concerned parent on behalf of my dyslexic child 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.

My son Chase was diagnosed with dyslexia in Grade 1. We have had to fight for him to have an IEP and spend thousands on tutoring outside of his school as his teachers are not equipped to understand dyslexia and the extra help Chase needs to learn in a different way than the school currently teaches reading. While all kids can learn the way Chase needs, Chase can no learn the way others are taught. Chase is so incredibly intelligent and his knows his dyslexia is his superpower, but it has been and will continue to be an uphill battle. It would be incredibly helpful if my child's classroom teacher understood what dyslexia looks like and how to help him.

Dyslexic students will benefit when they have teachers who understand the difficulties that they have. Without teacher understanding, dyslexic students are blamed 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,
Melissa Bertling
Mounds View School District
Ramsey County MN