

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to review my written testimony in regards to House Bill 1306.

After several years of going through the unknowns of what our son was facing with every single day at school, he was finally diagnosed with Dyslexia in the summer of 2021. And while this diagnosis provided an ounce of relief to know what we were finally dealing with; a whole series of complications arose.

Upon completion of extensive testing at Inspiring Minds in Bismarck, North Dakota, the list of options for methods to help him was not a list. It was a simple statement indicating that the school system was not equipped with the proper training of staff and was not sure which accommodations they had to help with dyslexic students, let alone how they should be applied towards the curriculum.

If we as his parents wanted to provide the proper methods for dyslexic students to learn, we would need to take him to a private provider for the Orton-Gillingham training at our own expense. The cost was going to be \$48.75 per 45-minute session and he would need to attend two sessions a week.

We were then informed "The number of sessions available each day is limited, so he most likely will need to receive the tutoring during the school day."

This news only brought more of the unknown... Whether it was from, how are we going to arrange his courses so he can attend tutoring and not miss core curriculum to finding time twice a week to be able for one of us to leave our workplace to pick him up from school take him to tutoring and then return him back to the school.

The initial thought that an outside private entity could come in to the facility to provide the tutoring (at our expense) was quickly demolished because it is against school policy. This opened up only more concerns. Logistics seemed like the easy part...

Fast forward through several meetings to try and establish a plan, the bigger picture was that the school did not have the proper materials, training and support to not only be able to intervene and begin helping students at a young age, there were no dyslexia supports in place.

As we continued to blindly navigate this process of desperately trying to help our son, we were hit with many other obstacles such as tying in what he is learning at private tutoring with what he does each day in the classroom, what kind of accommodations should he have so he can properly utilize the tools he needs and still retain the information and the list goes on.

We as a family are fortunate that we are in a financial situation where we can provide this type of tutoring for our son and find time in our work days to provide transportation, however I can assure you that there are many families who cannot. This bill a pertinent step in the right direction to helping everyone from administration, teachers, parents and most importantly students with dyslexia to learn and be successful in pursuing their education.

Continuing to not provide assistance with intervention and proper education keeps the ripple effect going throughout their school years, but also as they complete their K-12 journey and move forward to live, work and raise families of their own in North Dakota.

Please consider this bill as an investment in the future of our state and vote Yes to House Bill 1306.

Thank you for your time, consideration and service to the state of North Dakota.

Respectfully,

Joan Trygg