

03/06/2023

Chairman Elkin and Education Committee Members,

My name is Leslie Bieber and I am the Superintendent of Alexander Public School. I am writing in opposition of HB 1231.

The pilot of dyslexia went well from what I understand. I have questions that I would like you to ask before you even consider Do Pass on HB 1231.

- Why are we moving away from what the pilot schools piloted?
- Did a certified dyslexia specialist do the universal screener for the pilot programs?
- Where will the rural schools find a certified dyslexia specialist?
- Will I train another teacher and pull them from their classroom time to screen all of my children seven years and under at the beginning of the year and every time a new student enrolls?
- Is there any other universal screener that is provided by a specialist?

Alexander currently has three students with dyslexia who receive interventions and are doing well. We used our screener in our curriculum and then sought what was needed for the students. We identified their need and they receive the services needed because that is what we do.

HB 1231 requires more professional development on top of the Science of Reading for my teachers K-3, I dread telling them that they have more mandated state training. The original version of the bill states that professional development will be provided for the appropriate staff, why change it to everyone?

Teachers are leaving and everyone is concerned about what we will do with a teacher shortage?

I ask you to give a Do Not Pass to HB1231, please stop putting more and more on my teachers' shoulders, and just let them teach!

Thank you for allowing me to be here virtually. I will stand for any questions.

Respectfully,

Leslie Bieber