

January 12, 2021

RE: SB 126 / HB 237
Maryland Senate / Miller Senate Office Building
Attn: Education, Health and Environment Affairs
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD. 21401

Testimony in Support of SB 126 / HB 237.

Early Literacy and Dyslexia Practices – Guidance and Assistance.

Hello and good day.

I wish to communicate my support of the Dyslexia bills being proposed this legislative session; SB 126 / HB 237. It is estimated that as many as 43.5 million Americans have Dyslexia. Reading is fundamental to learning and tied directly to a student's future success.

I am the parent of a child with multiple challenges and disabilities. And I am also now an advocate for children with disabilities. Dyslexia is hereditary and multi-generational in my family and in so many others across our nation and world. My brother, my Dad, oldest son and myself are just a small sampling of citizens that wrestle with Dyslexia's challenges every day.

Reading is the cornerstone of education. Without the ability to read, students cannot progress and learn effectively in an education setting. Their future success hinges on developing the ability to read.

Therefore, I fully support the establishment of a steering committee, advisory group and creation of a dyslexia guidance handbook. Advisory members should be from all over the counties and entire state of Maryland, and reflect the rich diversity and variety of demographics present across our state.

Working together, the advisory group can craft a Dyslexia guidance handbook, recommend reading remediation programs and materials that best address the many challenges related to Dyslexia.

As a member of Decoding Dyslexia of Maryland and Parent Advocacy Consortium, I know that organizations like ours have a treasure trove of peer reviewed, science-based research, and experience to share. We would be pleased to provide this vast knowledge with the House Ways and Means Committee, MD's House of Delegates, The Maryland Senate and The Dyslexia advisory group in any capacity needed.

Please return a favorable report and move forward with SB 126 / HB 237 so that MD's State Dept of Ed. will be tasked with identifying, and servicing all children with dyslexia across the entire state of Maryland.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Mr. Richard Ceruolo. Parent, disability rights advocate, and adult living with Dyslexia.
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