

January 18, 2021  
Maryland General Assembly  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Support for the Reading and Dyslexia Handbook of 2021 (HB 0237)

Dear Delegates Shelly Hendler, Dana Stein, Lisa Belcastro, and Jon Cardin: I am writing this letter in support of the Reading and Dyslexia Handbook legislation, HB 0237, sponsored by Delegate Eric Ebersole.

The Maryland Dyslexia Task Force recommended that a Maryland Reading and Dyslexia Handbook be created in its 2017 Dyslexia Task Force Report to the Legislature (p. 52). The Dyslexia Task Force met for 2 years (2015-2016) and found that Maryland's 25 local school systems would benefit from guidance on the best practices for reading and dyslexia.

As a Teacher Trainer of Maryland teachers, it is crucial that school systems have clear guidelines for implementing programs to help identified dyslexic students. All stakeholders need to understand their roles in developing meaningful Individual Education Program; helping superintendents, principals, and supervisors to oversee choices that are being made in each school; offering appropriate, evidence-based and research-based teacher training programs to help dyslexic students; and developing test protocols to identify, progress monitor, and place remediated students back into the main programs at their schools with appropriate accommodations; and helping parents to understand policies, procedures, and expectations in advocating for their dyslexic children.

I hope that you will support this important legislation.

Thank you,

*Dr. Fran Levin Bowman*

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