

February 5, 2017

Dear Representative:

My name is Kelly Long and I reside at 1886 N 1150 Rd in Lawrence, Kansas. I am a former teacher currently selling real estate while homeschooling my 9-year old dyslexic son.

I am writing to ask that you to strongly consider screenings for dyslexia and related disorders - House Bill 2606 by Representatives Brim and Cox. I am currently homeschooling my son as of January 1, 2018 due to the school's inability to teach him reading. We were always told that he was a strong student, but he could not reach the reading benchmarks. I often worked with him after school on reading skills, but could never bring him up to benchmark. In July 2017, my husband and I decided to have him tested for dyslexia. After his diagnose in July, we met with the school and wrote a 504 Plan. The school was great to work with, but they lacked the skills/tools for teaching dyslexic students. Therefore, I started homeschooling in January 2018. I am blessed to have the background as a former teacher and the financial means to do this. Not every parent does. It was a difficult decision for our family to make, but I knew after a lot of research and speaking with several professionals that with the right tools I could make a difference in my son's life. Dyslexic students CAN learn to read and the ability to read is a fundamental skill needed by every student. If a student does not have the skills required to read then when they are required to "read to learn" they will struggle significantly. If students are screened early for dyslexia and related disorders then their ability to learn is considerably improved. If this were your child, grandchild, niece or nephew wouldn't you want to give them the best opportunity for success with an early screening for dyslexia and related disorders?

I appreciate your help and ask that you please send me a response letting me know if you are able to pass House Bill 2606 by Representatives Brim and Cox that would make our dyslexic students more successful.

Thank you for your time and considering my request.

Sincerely,

Kelly Long
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