

*Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, MA 02133-1054

**JENNIFER E. BENSON**  
REPRESENTATIVE  
37<sup>TH</sup> MIDDLESEX DISTRICT

Committee:  
Chair  
Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure

ROOM 42, STATE HOUSE  
TEL: (617) 722-2014

June 17, 2015

Representative Alice Peisch, Chair  
Joint Committee on Education  
State House, Room 473G  
Boston, MA 02133

Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz, Chair  
Joint Committee on Education  
State House, Room 413-C  
Boston, MA 02133

**RE:** H.463, *An Act relative to providing screening for dyslexia*

Dear Chairwomen:


I write to ask that the Joint Committee on Education give House Bill 463, *An Act relative to providing screening for dyslexia*, a favorable report.

House Bill 463 would require each school district in the Commonwealth to screen every student for potential indicators of dyslexia or other reading disabilities no later than the first semester of second grade. The bill provides a standard definition of dyslexia and would require the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to establish regulations for screening procedures to identify students who possess one of more indicators of dyslexia. Dyslexia can be remediated with proper instruction and accommodations, so early screening for our children is essential.

Dyslexia does not improve with time or more effort, but with early intervention, tutoring, and proper remediation services. It is often undetected and has long lasting impacts through adulthood. H.463 will ensure that all children in the Commonwealth are screened, and receive appropriate services that will help them excel.

As a co-sponsor of House Bill 463, I ask that the committee favorably report the bill.

Sincerely,

  
Jennifer Benson  
State Representative  
37<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District