



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

JAMES J. LYONS, JR.
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Committees:
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March 18, 2016

Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz
State House
Room 111
Boston, MA 02133

Rep. Alice Peisch
State House
Room 473G
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairs of the Joint Committee—

I am writing to request that the Joint Committee on Education take favorable action on H463, *An Act Relative to Providing Screening for Dyslexia*.

Dyslexia has profound negative impacts on a child's educational outcome if it is not identified and addressed in a timely manner. When diagnosed at a young age, however, it is a condition for which young students can absolutely be taught the skills with which to cope. This results in the best educational outcome for the student, and will ultimately save districts from additional special education costs further down the line. Screening can identify children at risk as early as age 5.

Section 57 of Chapter 71 of the Massachusetts General Laws, which this bill seeks to amend, already lists a variety of vision and hearing tests which schools conduct on students at an early age. By adopting this bill we would be improving the academic performance of thousands of students across the Commonwealth and ultimately saving our districts money. Further, adding this language would be consistent with, and supportive of, the original intent of this section of the Massachusetts General Laws.

I urge the committee to release this bill for consideration before the legislature as soon as possible.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James J. Lyons, Jr.", written over a printed name and title.

James J. Lyons, Jr.
18th Essex District