



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR JOHN F. KEENAN
Norfolk and Plymouth District

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 413B
BOSTON, MA 02133-1053
TEL. (617) 722-1494
FAX (617) 722-1055

JOHN.KEENAN@MASENATE.GOV
WWW.MASENATE.GOV

January 12, 2016

The Honorable Sonia Chang-Diaz, Senate Chair
Joint Committee on Education
State House, Room 111

The Honorable Alice H. Peisch, House Chair
Joint Committee on Education
State House, Room 473G

Dear Chairwoman Chang-Diaz and Chairwoman Peisch:

I write today in strong support of **House Bill 463**, *An Act relative to providing screening for dyslexia*, sponsored by Representative Peisch and **Senate Bill 312**, *An Act to address the special education needs of children with dyslexia*, sponsored by Senator L'Italien, and to respectfully request favorable reports of these bills which are currently before your Committee.

In combination, these bills would mandate that all students of the Commonwealth be screened by the first semester of the second grade to identify possible signs of dyslexia or other reading disabilities. Furthermore, they would require that students who have been diagnosed with these kinds of disabilities receive access to evidence-based, sequenced, explicit multisensory reading instruction; access to assistive technology; access to teachers and teaching assistants who have obtained the dyslexia endorsement pursuant to Section 38G1/2 of Chapter 71 of the General Laws; and effective access to grade-level curriculum. Early identification of dyslexia, followed by appropriate intervention and instruction will improve students' academic performances, thus better preparing them for college education and participation in the workforce.

Thank you for your time, and please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions pertaining to this legislation.

Sincerely,


Sen. John F. Keenan



Chairman
SENATE COMMITTEE ON
BONDING, CAPITAL EXPENDITURES
AND STATE ASSETS

Vice Chairman
JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
JOINT COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

WAYS AND MEANS
FINANCIAL SERVICES
CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES
STATE ADMINISTRATION
AND REGULATORY OVERSIGHT