

**Written Testimony of Angie Schreiber
Before the Senate Education Committee
On Senate Bill 44
February 7, 2013**

Chairman Abrams and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 44.

Senate Bill 44 provides for screening of students in kindergarten, grades one and two for dyslexia and related disorders and allows for school districts to provide appropriate research-based intervention.

As a member of the school board for USD 253 in Emporia, KS, I am fully aware of the demands placed on school districts today. Supporting a bill that seems to increase the work that districts must accomplish may seem counter-productive, but I firmly believe that providing effective tools to teachers in the classroom, to help them teach all students will help Kansas in the future. All students reading by third grade allows teachers in the upper grades to focus on grade-level subjects and expand on student's knowledge without worrying about teaching basic reading skills. Thus, when Kansas students graduate from high school, they will be prepared to enter technical college, university or the work world.

I also understand the time and effort it takes for teachers to test every student in their classroom. However, that must be balanced with the frustration of those same teachers when they do not have the tools to help the young people who are in their classrooms learn to read. It is estimated that 10 in every 100 students have dyslexia, so no classroom in the state is unaffected. Students with dyslexia need very specific remediation programs; these have not been adopted in most school districts because Kansas does not recognize this specific learning disability.

Helping students learn to read has far reaching consequences, which affect the economics of our state. Poor readers drive up health care costs for businesses. Various studies suggest that people with low levels of health literacy, defined as low overall reading comprehension, incur four times more health care costs per year than people with high literacy levels. A report by the Minnesota Health Literacy Partnership indicates that low health literacy was driving up costs as much as \$73 billion a year. (Ingrams's Kansas City's Business Magazine, Driving Home the Health-Care Message).

I urge your support for SB 44 for the individual students of Kansas, for the people of Kansas and the businesses of Kansas so once more we can reach for the stars.

Thank you again for allowing me to provide testimony.

Angie Schreiber
1722 Yucca Lane
Emporia, KS 66801
mschreiber82@gmail.com
620-341-3036