

**Subject: HB2602**

Dear Honorable Senators,

After testifying on behalf of *hundreds of thousands of children* with dyslexia in Kansas, who are in need of identification and help learning to read with meaningful instruction, and *thousands of teachers including parents* that we have prepared to identify and teach these children, I couldn't be more pleased to submit this testimony. Like my co-founder of the Fundamental Learning Center, Gretchen Andeel, I have given my adult life to educating teachers, parents, and other professionals about dyslexia who reside and work in Kansas. I have traveled to Topeka for 12 + sessions (actually have lost track), in an attempt to move Kansas forward in the recognition of dyslexia in our schools' classrooms; to no avail.

I am hopeful the 2018 Legislative Session will prove to be different. I started my journey in 1991 when my youngest son was diagnosed with profound dyslexia in first grade. No one in Kansas could help me understand what to do. Luckily I crossed paths with Gretchen Andeel, and she helped me save Cooper's life. That was a long time ago, and I'm getting old and tired, but promise you until the day I die, I am willing to do whatever it takes to move Kansas forward.

I am submitting an article published by the Yale Center for Dyslexia and Creativity to help you understand the journey Gretchen Andeel and I have pursued together (attached below). Our organization has much to share with the Kansas Dept. of Education and the concerned Kansas Legislators.

I continue to be so proud of the parents who continue to fight for the recognition of their children's struggles with dyslexia in Kansas' schools. I was never able to change the thinking of the Kansas Dept of Education when my child, Cooper, was in school. I am hopeful that his children might experience a change in "thinking" in the Great State of Kansas when it comes to the 1-in-5 group of children who suffer throughout life because Kansas refuses to recognize dyslexia in our classrooms. This lack of knowledge affects our teaching professionals who have no understanding of the characteristics and life-long struggles of dyslexia, despite the potential these individuals genetically embody.

I invite all to tour our teacher training center and school for young children who are dyslexic, because these children will convince you that children with dyslexia are our future Kansas leaders and innovators. It's truly time for Kansas to respond.

Sincerely,

Jeanine Phillips

<http://dyslexia.yale.edu/advocacy/making-a-difference/two-mothers-effort-to-help-their-children-helped-so-many-more/#.WprUvwcG1pY.email>

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