

To Whom It May Concern,

As a parent of a dyslexic child, I can express to you the need for a task force addressing this learning difficulty. Prior to moving and enrolling in a Kansas school district, my daughter was diagnosed with dyslexia. Lauren was in third grade and tremendously struggling with reading. Her two teachers (they were co-teaching) noticed her struggles and loss of interest in the class. Her self esteem and confidence were very low. At one point she asked me, "am I dumb?" That question broke my heart. My husband and I became determined to find an explanation for her struggles. After a sequence of private tests and consultations which lasted several months, she was found to have dyslexia. The diagnosis was, in a weird sense, a relief. We now knew what we were dealing with. Getting her the appropriate assistance at school was another battle. Eventually she received intensive evidence-based reading instruction which allowed her to achieve above grade level reading. She is currently a senior in high school ready to graduate in May and set to attend Kansas Wesleyan University in the fall.

A Task Force on Dyslexia is important because it would give school districts the necessary tools to help students with dyslexia. We need to empower our schools to identify students with dyslexia. We must train our teachers, counselors, administrators AND parents to support dyslexic students. Using evidence-based direct reading instruction and best teaching practices for children with dyslexia would benefit thousands of children in Kansas. I know it benefited mine.

Respectfully,  
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