

## Senate Bill 1002 Testimony in Support

Date: May 22, 2017

Chair Doherty and House Committee on Education Members,

My testimony supports SB 1002, with a suggested MINOR clarifying amendment.

I am concerned that Section 2(1) will rule out the majority of tutors who the bill is trying to facilitate into the schools.

Section 2(1) says a “private tutor” is one who has an agreement *“between the tutor and a private entity.”* However, the vast majority of dyslexia tutors are NOT employed by a tutoring “entity.” In fact, the vast majority of dyslexia tutors are *self*-employed.

It is critical to allow private tutors who are not employed by an “entity” to instead have an agreement “between the tutor and the student’s parent/guardian.” Otherwise SB1002 will be limited to tutoring companies which rarely have dyslexia tutors (Portland being the exception). In Salem, the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest district in the state, I am not aware of ANY private entity which hires dyslexia tutors.

As a tutor specializing in dyslexia, several clients have asked the school if I could tutor at the school. My district always says no. Schools claim it is not fair to allow tutors to come into the building. They often cite costs as their reason, yet schools routinely allow access to scout clubs, neighborhood community groups, and other family-friendly groups, even after office hours.

Most parents have full-time jobs, making it impossible to take time off work to transport their child to a tutor. Many do not get off work until 5:30 or 6. They are tired, must provide dinner, help with homework, and spend a few precious minutes with their children before bed. There is little time to squeeze in a trip to a tutor twice a week.

Please support our students by requiring schools to give tutors access to children at the school building, even if it must be only for those children who use a school’s after-school care facilities.

Thank you.

Susan Farmer (503-585-9407)

- Licensed teacher; B.S. in Education 1976, Peabody/Vanderbilt University.
- For 13 years have specialized in early reading intervention, learning disabilities, specifically reading/dyslexia
- Privately tutor children with reading disabilities