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On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB3198

Im a parent to an 11 year old girl who 4 years ago was continuously swept under the rug. I was told she was a late bloomer and that I should just read to her in the home, until one teacher in secrecy told me that she was dyslexic. After spending \$3000 in getting her diagnosed and reporting back to the school, I was told she didn't even qualify for a IEP. My family spent a lot of money getting her tutored outside the school and she is now currently at grade level in 6th grade after being 4 grades behind.

I was so angry because although my family has the means to get our daughter tutoring, so many families don't. That shouldn't be the reason that these kids don't learn to read. When looking at statistics like 85% of children who have contact with the juvenile justice system are struggling readers, and 70% of inmates can't read above a fourth grade level, it's time we turn our focus on helping our kids! This is a right of all children.

I raised \$35,000 and started a pilot program at Raleigh Hills Elementary school called "Sadie Reads" where 10 of the most struggling readers are individually tutored once a week with 15 minutes of reading games. Their progress is outstanding and has changed the life of 10 families!! I'm saying families, because we need to break the cycle of poverty. Give a kid the tools they need to read, they will stay out of the justice system and change the path of those families.

I hope this bill is just a starting place to address the literacy crisis, we as the grown ups need to make changes because these kids deserve it. The science is all there, we need to do better.