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Support SB567 & SB568

Hello my name is Anri Haglund.

I'm in 9th grade and I have dyslexia. I'm here to ask you to support these bills to help students who have dyslexia and have a hard time learning to read.

When I was younger.....

- I never wanted to read or write. Actually, I wanted to read and write because I liked school, but I just couldn't.
- In 3rd grade the teachers wanted us to read out loud and I was afraid I would make mistakes or take too long.
- They didn't give me good strategies to sound out words. They said to go back and slide through the word, which didn't help because I wasn't sure what sound the "a" made, was it a long "a" or a short "a"
- They only had me read a book and talk about what I remembered from the book BUT it was hard to remember since I couldn't read all the words.
- Teachers didn't spend a lot of time on writing and spelling.
- I only remember learning the magic "e" rule for spelling.
- I wasn't able to read long words.
- While I was in elementary school, I sometimes felt out of place almost as if I didn't belong at school or in the class.
- I always wondered what it would be like if I didn't have dyslexia, or if I could read just as well as my peers around me.

- I would say negative things to myself such as “Oh I’m so stupid” and “Why can’t I write like everyone else.’
- I used to avoid reading and writing by asking for bathroom breaks and trying to visit other teachers.
- At the end of 5th grade, I was not at grade level in reading and writing. They wanted to stop giving me extra help and wanted me to use technology tools to help me read and write, but not help me to be truly independent.
- Thankfully, my parents did not give up on me.
- I was given a wonderful tutor outside of the school who has opened so many paths to success and has taught me the right way to read, write, and spell.
- She taught me letter patterns and with learning these new ways to decipher and decode words I never knew, I am not as afraid to read and write, though it is still a struggle and I need extra help.
- I wish I was brought to this tutor sooner so I could have received the help that I needed to make my goals possible.
- If I had been given this help earlier, when I was really young, I think many things would be easier, because the struggles continue every day at school.
- Please pass these bills so schools will identify students with decoding problems when they are young so they can get the proper help that they need. Otherwise, it will affect them for the rest of their lives, as it affects me.