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Support SB567 & 568

Let me tell you about this little black boy that did everything he could to get his family out of the ghetto.

This little black boy went to school every single day, not because he wanted to because he had to. This little black boy knew he wasn't smart like his classmates because he couldn't read or spell. This little black boy was a brave soul, even though he knew he couldn't read, everyday in class he was still trying. His classmates and friends laughed at him, calling him dumb and stupid. He never gave up because his grandma wouldn't let him. This little black boy dreamed of going to the NFL, so he could get his family out of the ghetto.

He played one year of football and a bunch of college coaches started offering him scholarships. He learned that you needed to go to college in order to go to the NFL. So he threw his NFL dreams away and turned to the streets. His grandma found out that he was trying to become a street thug and she knocked some sense into his head. This little black boy graduated from high school reading at a fourth grade level. He went to Central Michigan University. This little black boy is now a young man. This young man thought that he could use the same strategy that he used in high school in college. By going to class everyday, participating in class and turning in his school work no matter if it was right or wrong. That is when he experienced one of the worst times in his college career. The professor told this young man in front of the whole auditorium that he wasn't going to graduate from college or pass his class. That's when he called up his grandma. His grandma told him to ask for help. So the next day, he went into the disability office and received the help he needed. On the football field, this young man tried studying the playbook but he was getting headaches, he couldn't understand what was going on with his brain. He couldn't read the concepts or go in the right directions. He struggled with the playbook, all the way until his senior year in college. This young man graduated from college reading at a

fourth grade level. He persevered through all the pain and struggles and made it to his dreams and goals.

He signed a contract with the Detroit Lions. That's when he learned that the Detroit Lions playbook was much harder than the college playbook. This young man was doing everything he could to fight for a spot on the roster. The Detroit Lions kept releasing him and signing him back to the team. The Detroit Lions thought that maybe he would finally open the playbook. That wasn't the problem. The problem was that he couldn't read. During that time, his grandma passed away and his Mother. This young man got a call from his agent, his agent said there were a few more NFL teams that wanted him to try out for their team. This young man realized that no matter where he went, there would always be a playbook that he had to read. So he walked away from football.

During the pandemic his wife told him that she was pregnant with their first child. That's when he made up his mind to take control of his reading problem. He started working with his tutor and she introduced him to the Orton-Gillingham method. For three years straight he has been training hard to learn how to read. Now he knows how to decode words. His biggest accomplishment came true. To read to his daughter.

My name is Deon Butler and I'm that little black boy that struggled all my life with reading and writing.