



November 29, 2022

Greetings --

After two years of work and consultation with the State Education Department, educators, scientists, parents, teachers and individuals with dyslexia, the Assembly and Senate unanimously passed the [Dyslexia Task Force Act](#) in May. This act would have required a panel of 11 experts to hold at least two public hearings and draft a report on how New York Public Schools can better screen children for dyslexia and dysgraphia, implement evidence-based literacy curriculum and provide teacher training.

Unfortunately, Governor Hochul, in the dark of night on Thanksgiving decided to veto the bill. Because of her actions, New York will continue to rank near the very bottom in the nation in evidence-based teacher training and our students will continue to struggle.

Over 60% of NYC public school children in the 4th grade read at below a proficient level and most never catch up because they never receive the evidence-based reading instruction that they need in order to learn to read. The Governor with her veto has chosen to continue to ignore all the moms and dads in New York who call my office regularly in anguish because they have an elementary school student who attends our public schools but cannot read. These parents believe in our education system and trust us to live up to our end of the bargain, which is to provide a free and appropriate education for all our children. The [Dyslexia Task Force Act](#) provided a first step to collectively address the calamity and the failure of New York's reading curriculum, but with her veto, the Governor has chosen the status quo and cynically deprived New York's children of a basic literacy education.

There were many advocate champions for this legislation around the state for whom I am so grateful; from the thousands of people who signed one of the petitions in support of this bill to the advocacy groups from Long Island, NYC, Rockland, Albany, Western New York and elsewhere. Your efforts are not in vain. We will continue to fight this legislative session for as long as it takes to make sure that the Governor no longer ignores your voices and the state takes action to confront our literacy crisis.

If you would like to register your displeasure about the Governor's veto, please call (518) 474-8390, option 3, then press option 2 to speak to someone.

-Bobby

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