

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 79

BY SENATOR APPEL

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Department of Education, and local school boards to recognize that dyslexia has significant educational implications that must be addressed.

WHEREAS, dyslexia is defined as an unexpected difficulty in reading for an individual who has the intelligence to be a much better reader; it reflects a hardship in acquiring and processing sounds of spoken language which typically impacts speaking, reading, spelling, and often, learning a second language; and

WHEREAS, dyslexia is highly prevalent and persistent; in some form, dyslexia affects one out of five individuals; and

WHEREAS, dyslexia is a paradox and it is often found that the same individual who has a weakness in decoding or a weakness in reading fluency also has strengths in higher level cognitive functions, such as reasoning, critical thinking, concept formation, and problem solving; and

WHEREAS, great progress has been made in understanding dyslexia at a scientific level, including its epidemiology, and cognitive and neurobiological bases; and

WHEREAS, diagnosis of dyslexia is critical and it must lead to focused, evidence-based interventions, necessary accommodations, self-awareness, self-empowerment, and success in school and life.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Department of Education, and local school boards to recognize that dyslexia has significant educational implications that must be addressed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the state superintendent of education, and the president of the Louisiana School Boards Association.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE