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| [**HB 436**](https://www.gongwer-oh.com/legislation/bill.cfm?billid=2019HB43602) | **Dyslexia** ([**Baldridge, B.**](https://www.gongwer-oh.com/directories/bio.cfm?nameid=262302)) With regard to screening and intervention for children with dyslexia. CONTINUED (3rd Hearing-All testimony) |

Kevin Miller director of governmental relations for BASA, testified on behalf of the major statewide school official associations and suggested several changes.

He said the groups "feel that HB436 can impact positive change for Ohio's school districts and the students they serve by being less prescriptive, allowing the Ohio Department of Education to work with the dyslexia advisory committee to define standards for school districts as needs and programming evolve."

The groups proposed:

--Increasing the number of education practitioners on the advisory committee as noted in this testimony with no requirement for committee members to be certified;

--Directing ODE to develop professional development programming but not designating the required hours of professional development in legislation;

--Including the necessity of "multi-sensory" structured literacy programming;

--Removing required ratios of certified teachers; instead, direct ODE to create a structure that provides for certification training through the state's Educational Service Centers;

--Designating that screening take place January 1 of students' kindergarten year to January 1 of students' first grade year, providing for local control in deciding the best time to screen students.

Chair [**Sen. Peggy Lehner**](https://www.gongwer-oh.com/directories/bio.cfm?nameid=92102) (R-Kettering) said a substitute draft incorporates 90% of what the groups asked for.

[**Sen. Bill Coley**](https://www.gongwer-oh.com/directories/bio.cfm?nameid=23402) (R-Liberty Twp.) questioned the time required to screen students as well as the potential cost, saying a fiscal analysis was "deceptive at best." He also remarked that the groups supporting the bill are often complaining to lawmakers about "unfunded mandates."

Given the extra time that would be required to screen students, the lawmaker asked, "Does this bill eliminate any hours of testing that are currently going on?"

Mr. Miller responded that the bill doesn't take away any existing testing.

"You're right, we are going to spend more time screening these students" but early assessments will pay off in the long run for student achievement and back-end educational costs, he said.

The Ohio Occupational Therapy Association and the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics provided supportive testimony on the measure.