[Date]

The Joint Legislative Council Study Committee on the Identification and Management of Dyslexia

To: Rep. Bob Kulp, Chair

Sen. Patty Schachtner, Vice-Chair

Cc: Sen. [your senator’s name]

Rep. [your representative’s name]

As a [parent], pediatrician and concerned community resident, I applaud your leadership of the Joint Legislative Council Study Committee on the Identification and Management of Dyslexia. Early literacy is critical to a child’s lifelong learning trajectory, laying the groundwork for long-term educational and professional success.

Dyslexia affects approximately one in ten people, and is not something that is “outgrown.”

National scores reveal that Wisconsin has dropped from 3rd to 34th in national reading scores since 1994. While 40 other states in the US have legislation focusing on dyslexia in particular, Wisconsin does not. We are at a crossroads in acknowledging the dramatic effects of this disorder. Our state cannot afford, in any way, to continue to lag behind in efforts to ameliorate supports for learning for students with dyslexia.

Some of those supports for your consideration include updating statues on early evidence-based screening for dyslexia, high quality pre-service and in-service professional development activities to address reading difficulties like dyslexia and exploring other models nationally to recommend the best strategies for Wisconsin.

I’m attaching a fact sheet from the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, which represents over 900 pediatricians who consider quality reading supports to be fundamental to every child’s growth, development and long-term health.

[Insert personal and professional experiences. Stories are the most powerful tools!]

Thank you for your work, and please contact me if you would like more information.

Sincerely,

[First name, Last name, credentials]

[Address]

[Phone number]

[First name, Last name, credentials]