

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

3 HOUSE

4 RESOLUTION 1078

By: Coody (Ann) and Shelton

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7 AS INTRODUCED

8 A Resolution supporting screening and identification  
9 and certain treatments for students with Dyslexia;  
10 recognizing the need for more literacy services in  
11 schools; recognizing the need for certain teacher  
12 training; supporting increased public awareness of  
13 Dyslexia; and directing distribution.

14 WHEREAS, low literacy and functional illiteracy are reaching  
15 crisis levels within Oklahoma; and

16 WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Education  
17 and the National Institute of Literacy, fourteen percent of the  
18 population cannot read, twenty-one percent of adults in the United  
19 States read below a 5th grade level, and nineteen percent of high  
20 school graduates cannot functionally read; and

21 WHEREAS, literacy impacts educational attainment, economic status  
22 and self-respect; and

23 WHEREAS, low literacy levels can be responsible for  
24 unemployment, poverty, academic failure, failed personal

1 relationships, increased criminal behavior, and poor health outcomes;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Dyslexia is often hereditary and the most common  
4 reading disability, yet many individuals remain undiagnosed,  
5 untreated and struggle with the impact of their Dyslexia; and

6 WHEREAS, Dyslexia is neurological in origin characterized by  
7 problems with accurate or fluent word recognition, poor decoding,  
8 and poor spelling abilities and is the only medical condition with  
9 an educational treatment and solution; and

10 WHEREAS, in order to become successful readers, writers and  
11 spellers, students with Dyslexia require reading instruction or  
12 specialized reading intervention and therapy that is explicit,  
13 structured, multisensory, cumulative, sequential and hierarchical;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, according to the Yale Dyslexia and Creativity Center,  
16 Dyslexia crosses racial, ethnic and socioeconomic lines and with  
17 proper instruction and accommodations it can be remediated; and

18 WHEREAS, according to research reported by the Oklahoma  
19 Department of Libraries undiagnosed and untreated reading  
20 disabilities increase the risk of youth involvement in the juvenile  
21 justice systems and perpetuates the school-to-prison pipeline; and

22 WHEREAS, with passage of Senate Bill 1565 in 2012, the Oklahoma  
23 Legislature defined Dyslexia as an educational and literacy learning  
24 disability to be educationally addressed by classroom teachers; and

1       WHEREAS, Oklahoma teachers are generally not trained to  
2 successfully screen, identify, teach, provide reading prevention,  
3 intervention, and remediation to the twenty percent of students in  
4 Oklahoma schools who are struggling with Dyslexia.

5       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
6 OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

7       THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives supports making  
8 correct, consistent, and routine screening and identification of  
9 students who have Dyslexia an educational priority and supports  
10 offering all students in Oklahoma who have been screened and  
11 identified as having Dyslexia with evidence- and research-based  
12 educational treatment options proven to improve literacy rates.

13       THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives recognizes the need  
14 for more literacy services and resources in Oklahoma schools so that  
15 all students receive Dyslexia screening and the need for appropriate  
16 classroom reading instruction, proper tutoring, therapy and  
17 remediation to combat the educational literacy crisis.

18       THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives recognizes the need  
19 to close the reading achievement gap by requiring appropriate  
20 teacher training for teaching reading to students with Dyslexia.

21       THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives stands with those  
22 impacted by Dyslexia by supporting increased public awareness of  
23 Dyslexia, by urging all Oklahomans to learn about Dyslexia and its  
24 impact on Oklahoma students and by educating the public about the

1 adverse effects untreated reading disabilities can have on their  
2 communities.

3 THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Governor,  
4 the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the Presidents and  
5 Deans of Education of each institution that is a member of The  
6 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, the State Superintendent  
7 of Public Instruction and the Cooperative Council for Oklahoma  
8 School Administration.

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