



**LEGISLATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS UNIT**

1831 K Street
Sacramento, CA 95811-4114
Tel: (916) 504-5800
TTY: (800) 719-5798
Intake Line: (800) 776-5746
Fax: (916) 504-5807
www.disabilityrightsca.org

June 10, 2021

Honorable Patrick O' Donnell
Chair, Education Committee
California State Assembly
1020 N Street, Room 159
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 237 (Portantino) as amended May 20, 2021 – SUPPORT

Dear Chair O' Donnell:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports SB 237.**

SB 237 would require the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt screening tools for school districts to use to identify students at risk for dyslexia. It also requires school district to screen all California students annually in kindergarten through second grade and make screening results available on a timely basis to parents/guardians and teachers, as specified.

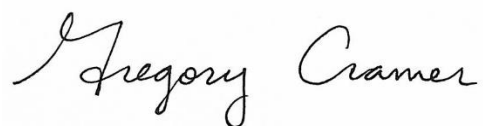
Dyslexia affects up to 1 in 5 children in our educational system today. Without universal screening for signs of dyslexia, many students are never identified as being at risk and thus do not receive the intervention they need to become literate.

School districts can reliably identify children showing signs of dyslexia before they experience school failure, which can help put them on the path to reading success. Early identification as proposed in SB 237 makes intensive early intervention possible, sparing children years of struggle that has lasting academic, social, and emotional impacts. Further, many states

already have laws requiring universal screening for reading risk including dyslexia. California is behind on educational best practices in this regard.

Thank you for your support of this important bill on K-2 universal screening for students at risk for dyslexia. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position or if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory Cramer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G' and a long, sweeping underline.

Gregory Cramer
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Education Committee
Honorable Anthony Portantino, California State Senate
Tara McGee, Legislative Director, Office of Assembly Member
Portantino