

March 11, 2025

Honorable Renee Erickson, Chair
Senate Committee on Education
Kansas Senate
Kansas State Capitol
Topeka, KS

Senate Education Committee:

My name is William (Bill) Pickert from Wichita, Kansas. As a business leader, as a board member of Phillips Fundamental Learning Center (PFLC), and as a father of a dyslexic child, I am submitting testimony in support of HB2033. PFLC is a vitally important organization in Kansas. The work they are doing to train teachers throughout Kansas to improve the educational outcomes for those with dyslexia is having a tremendous impact on education outcomes in many Kansas communities.

PFLC has been working heroically and tirelessly for over 25 years to assist students and families to successfully overcome the profound learning challenges related to dyslexia. In this effort they have developed a state of the art and nationally certified Alphabetic Phonics teaching program that has made significant positive and documented impacts on students in Kansas and beyond.

The International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council, a nationally recognized accreditation organization accepted throughout the nation, has fully accredited PFLC's curriculum. However, it is my understanding that the list of approved At-Risk Programs in Kansas proposed by the Kansas Board of Education has deliberately excluded the PFLC's highly effective programs.

PFLC has already trained hundreds of Kansas teachers in their curriculum and their new educational facility in Wichita will allow them to dramatically increase their programs. Excluding PFLC from helping Kansans with learning disabilities would be tragic.

Last year the legislature made a heroic decision to stand up for the children of Kansas and recognize dyslexia as a learning disability for the first time. I am asking the legislature to stand up for the children of Kansas again and mandate the inclusion of PFLC's state-of-the-art curriculum in the list of approved at-risk educational programs in Kansas.

Thank you for hearing my concerns and your actions to support better outcomes for Kansas students.

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