

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-139

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

September 17, 2019

To recognize October as Dyslexia Awareness Month and draw attention to the challenges and presence of dyslexia.

WHEREAS, dyslexia was first identified as a condition in 1881 and was given the name dyslexia by German ophthalmologist, Dr. Rudolf Berlin;

WHEREAS, dyslexia is a language-based learning disability, that affects approximately one in five people, regardless of race, gender, age, or socioeconomic status;

WHEREAS, dyslexia is a neurological condition that is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition as well as poor spelling and decoding abilities;

WHEREAS, there is no cure for dyslexia, however those with dyslexia benefit greatly from specialized assistance from trained teachers, multi-sensory learning programs and individualized instruction;

WHEREAS, despite the challenges of dyslexia, people are able to succeed in a wide variety of professions;

WHEREAS, there are countless people at the top of their profession who have been diagnosed with dyslexia, including but not limited to director Steven Spielberg, boxer Mohammed Ali, artist Pablo Picasso, and theoretical physicist Albert Einstein;

WHEREAS, on February 19, 2019 Councilmember Brandon T. Todd introduced the Dyslexia and Other Reading Disabilities Screening and Prevention Pilot Program Act of 2019 to identify dyslexia in children at an early age to better provide them with the resources they need to meet their full potential; and

WHEREAS, individuals with dyslexia play a key role in the District of Columbia and our society as a whole and it is key to give them the resources necessary to succeed.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Dyslexia Awareness Month Recognition Resolution of 2019”.

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

Sec. 2. The Council recognizes the need to identify and aid those diagnosed with dyslexia and declares the month of October to be Dyslexia Awareness Month in the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.