

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-322

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

November 10, 2020

To declare October, 2020 as “Dyslexia Awareness Month” in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, dyslexia is a neurologically-based, often hereditary learning disability characterized by an unexpected difficulty in learning to read;

WHEREAS, dyslexia affects all segments of society, regardless of race, income, educational background or ability; is not an indication of a lack of intelligence or desire to learn, and is not outgrown, or rare;

WHEREAS, dyslexics are of average to above average intelligence, have incredible thinking skills in areas of reason, imagination, conceptualization, and abstraction and are typically more curious, creative, intuitive and have better coping strategies than the average person;

WHEREAS, dyslexia represents 80 to 90 percent of all those with learning disabilities and affects 1 in 5 people;

WHEREAS, dyslexia is often associated with other learning challenges in areas such as writing, spelling, mathematics, speech, language processing, executive function, motor planning, fine motor skills, attention and/or mental health;

WHEREAS, literacy is a critical skill for educational success. Students who do not read at grade level by third grade are four times more likely not to graduate from high school and those who continue to have difficulty reading are more likely to become incarcerated;

WHEREAS, early detection, and proper diagnosis, structured scientifically-based reading intervention, supports and the provision of necessary accommodations are critical to ensure school and life success for those with dyslexia;

WHEREAS, teachers and students across the District of Columbia benefit from increased educator professional training about dyslexia and scientifically-based teaching strategies designed to better identify and educate students with dyslexia;

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is committed to equity in educational opportunities through identifying obstacles to educational advancement and endeavoring to remove those obstacles; and

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

WHEREAS, Dyslexia Awareness Month is an opportunity to acknowledge, and to celebrate the many achievements of adolescents, students, and adults with dyslexia; to foster awareness across the District of Columbia; to empower families and educators who are aiding students with dyslexia, and to advocate for academic support in the District public schools so students with dyslexia can achieve reading success.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Dyslexia Awareness Month Ceremonial Recognition Resolution of 2020”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors those working to provide education and treatment to dyslexics in the District of Columbia and declares October, 2020 as “Dyslexia Awareness Month” in the District of Columbia.

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