

Decoding Dyslexia Texas strongly opposes HB 2847 because it removes a families' ability to decide how they spend their private earnings to obtain literacy for their family member, be it their child or adults seeking literacy.

We do not support restrictions on a family's choice for private dyslexia interventions.

Facts

There are more than 100 or more types of Orton-Gillingham and Structured English instructional programs across the country and used in Texas (Wilson, Alphabetic Phonics, Wilson Reading System, Lindamood Bell, Orton-Gillingham, Herman, Association Method, Slingerland, Spalding etc.) that would be affected by this bill.

There are many respected organizations not affiliated with ALTA that train and certify in the instruction of dyslexia remediation. It is not in the state's best interest to prohibit them from continuing their good work.

Evidenced based best practice for dyslexia is the "science of reading"; this bill attempts to make the "Science of Reading" a proprietary profit driven enterprise.

Currently there are approximately 850 Licensed Dyslexia Therapist (LDT) in the entire state. With approximately 1 million Texans with dyslexia, families would be left with few options and many rural and metropolitan areas would be greatly impacted.

Implications

Restricts evidence-based intervention options in the private sector and will drive up costs for families. Using a LDT can range in costs up to \$150 an hour!

This bill eliminates options currently utilized by families which are working for their students. It would send families scrambling to replace services that are currently providing effective results. HB2847 will close down respectable businesses and add burdensome costs for those currently serving individuals with dyslexia.

HB 2847 is handing an entire industry to one private organization

Texas parents should have the right to make adult decisions on how they spend their earned income. The state should not be regulating private choices or limiting families to very costly options.