

2/ 6/ 2018

Ladies and Gentleman of the Kansas House of Representatives Education Committee:

As stated on the Dyslexia Assessment Fact Sheet on *The International Dyslexia Association's* website:

“Professional clinicians who assess Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD) and dyslexia may have M.A., M.S., M.Ed., Ed.D., or Ph.D. degrees in Education, Reading, Speech Language Pathology, School Psychology, Psychology, or Neuropsychology.”

<https://dyslexiaida.org/dyslexia-assessment-what-is-it-and-how-can-it-help/>

Physicians and psychiatrists are not listed on the International Dyslexia Association website as professionals who typically assess for dyslexia. We are so fortunate in this community/state to have a facility, Children's Mercy, that has been doing dyslexia evaluations for more than 15 years. Their team of speech language pathologists as well as speech pathologists in private practice have been a very valuable resource for getting kids properly diagnosed. Children's Mercy Speech language pathologists currently conduct more than 60 dyslexia evaluations per month. For many years this has been the go to referral source for obtaining dyslexia evaluations and recommendations for treatment. I feel strongly that this bill is important, however, the appropriate professionals, including speech language pathologists must be included in the legislation to allow children the best access to services.

Sincerely,

Stacy Henn, M.S., CCC-SLP,  
Speech-Language Pathologist  
Comprehensive Speech-Language and Literacy Evaluator at Children's Mercy Hospital

Chris Scranton, M.S., CCC-SLP,  
Speech-Language Pathologist  
Comprehensive Speech-Language and Literacy Evaluator at Children's Mercy Hospital

Allison Winters, M. Ed., CCC-SLP  
Speech-Language Pathologist  
Comprehensive Speech-Language and Literacy Evaluator at SpeechAbility, LLC