

1 [Supporting California State Senate Bill No. 691 (Portantino) - Dyslexia Risk Screening]

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3 **Resolution supporting California State Senate Bill No. 691, introduced by Senate**
4 **Member Anthony Portantino (SD- 25), which would require the State Board of**
5 **Education to establish an approved list of evidence-based culturally, linguistically, and**
6 **developmentally appropriate screening instruments to be used by a local educational**
7 **agency, as defined, to screen pupils for risk of dyslexia.**

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9 WHEREAS, According to The Yale Center for Dyslexia and Creativity, Dyslexia is the
10 most common neurobehavioral disorder in children and young adults, affecting 20% of the
11 population and representing 80–90 percent of all those with learning disabilities; and

12 WHEREAS, Students with Dyslexia are less likely to graduate high school and attend
13 college; and

14 WHEREAS, Research shows that diagnosis, or the lack of it, in public schools remains
15 a major problem, and is a primary contributor to students “fading out”. Additionally, having
16 dyslexia, or another learning disability, is still stigmatized and misunderstood in many school
17 districts, and many public schools do not have the resources or knowledge to educate
18 students that require additional accommodations adequately; and

19 WHEREAS, The Dyslexia Research Institute estimates that although 1 in 5 Americans
20 likely has dyslexia, only 5% are diagnosed. Even fewer are diagnosed during their elementary
21 education years. So, by the time students reach high school, they have learned poor coping
22 mechanisms for their dyslexia and struggle in silence, or they continue to struggle
23 academically and incur low self-esteem as a result; and

24 WHEREAS, These combined forces have contributed to a staggering drop-out rate for
25 students with special educational needs; and

1 WHEREAS, The American Bar Association found nearly 85 percent of all youth
2 involved with juvenile court system was unable to read; and

3 WHEREAS, More than 50 percent of San Francisco Unified School District come from
4 socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds, which make it nearly impossible for parents
5 of Dyslexia students to receive out of school support; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the National Center on Improving Literacy, forty states have
7 passed legislation requiring screening for risk of dyslexia; and

8 WHEREAS, California law does not require early screening of all children to identify
9 children at risk for Dyslexia to enable parents and teachers to be aware of the student's needs
10 as early as possible and provide appropriate instruction; and

11 WHEREAS, Multiple scientific studies demonstrate that early identification and
12 intervention with evidence-based early literacy instructional strategies and materials improves
13 literacy outcomes for students at risk of or with dyslexia and other struggling readers; and

14 WHEREAS, By screening all pupils for risk of dyslexia early, California can help
15 families and teachers achieve the best learning and life outcomes for all pupils, close
16 academic achievement gaps, and help end the school-to-prison pipeline; and

17 WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 691 (SB 691) would require California local educational
18 agencies serving pupils in any of the grades kindergarten to grade 2 to screen students for
19 risk of Dyslexia in their; and

20 WHEREAS, SB 691 would require the State Board of Education (SBE) to establish an
21 approved list of evidence-based culturally, linguistically, and developmentally appropriate
22 screening instruments to be used by a local educational agency (LEA) to screen pupils for risk
23 of dyslexia; and

1 WHEREAS, California's Governor, Gavin Newsom, a person with Dyslexia, has been a
2 strong proponent for the increase screening and remediation services for students with
3 learning disabilities; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco supports Senate Bill No. 691
5 that would require all students in California to be screened for risk of Dyslexia in their early
6 elementary years; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the City and
8 County of San Francisco transmit a copy of this Resolution to San Francisco's State
9 Legislative Delegation, City and County of San Francisco State Lobbyist, to California
10 Governor Gavin Newsom and the Bill's primary Sponsor, Senator Anthony Portantino.