

2022 Here are resources you can use to have your voice heard!

It will take all of us in unison to make our voices heard!

There are several ways you can take action and show your support for Senate bills 380-383 which will make a positive difference for those who struggle to learn to read or have dyslexia.

Find sample communications below to help you get started. Letters can be sent via email or U.S. mail.

1. **Sample letter from parents and children:**

Parent/Student Communication - letters from a parent and their student (students can handwrite in the lined section, attach a video or picture)

2. **Sample letter from Michigan citizens: Simple version**

A **brief** communication to request support from your representative

3. **Sample letter from Michigan Citizens: Detailed version**

A request for support with **more detailed information** about Senate bills 380-383

4. **Phone Call Directions for call to Representative on September 28th**

Sample **script** with talking points included

5. **Tag legislators on Twitter**

Follow these steps for **written communication** (emails or U.S. mail)

Step 1: Sharing your personal story is best. The templates below will help you get started.

Step 2: If sending your letter by **U.S. Mail**, **address your envelope right away:**

Representative _____
Michigan House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

-- OR --

Step 3: To Email your legislator, House Education committee members and the Speaker of the House of Representatives **on September 28th**. These live links will give you email addresses.

Find Your Representative: Go [here](#).

[Rep. Jason Wentworth](#) (R) Speaker of the House

House Education Committee

[Pamela Hornberger](#) (R) Chairperson, [Brad Paquette](#) (R) Majority Vice-Chair, [Phil Green](#) (R)
[Gregory Markkanen](#) (R) [JackOMalley](#) (R) , [Andrew Beeler](#) (R) [John Damoose](#) (R)
[Bryan Posthumus](#) (R) [Darrin Camilleri](#) (D) Minority Vice-Chair
[Brenda Carter](#) (D) [Matt Koleszar](#) (D) [Nate Shannon](#) (D) [Lori Stone](#) (D)

Send the email to yourself and blind copy these legislators. Use this list below:

PamelaHornberger@house.mi.gov; jasonwentworth@house.mi.gov; bradpaquette@house.mi.gov;
RepPhilGreen@house.mi.gov; JackOMalley@house.mi.gov; AndrewBeeler@house.mi.gov;
JohnDamoose@house.mi.gov; darrincamilleri@house.mi.gov; darrincamilleri@house.mi.gov;
mattkoleszar@house.mi.gov; nateshannon@house.mi.gov; loristone@house.mi.gov;
gregmarkkanen@house.mi.gov

=====SCROLL DOWN FOR MORE DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS=====

1. Sample letter from parents and children:

These are sample letters that you can personalize if you'd like.

The first paragraph describes the bills, and the second paragraph can be used to tell your story. You may use the bottom of the page for your child to share their thoughts about dyslexia, reading, or the bills. Alternatively, if you are communicating via email, you could attach a video of your child sharing their story and their request for support.

Sample Parent Letter:

Dear Representative _____,

Senate Bills 380-383 have passed in the Senate. If passed, they will make a positive difference for those who struggle to learn to read or have dyslexia. These bills will require schools to properly screen children for problems with decoding and word recognition and to intervene to help these children with evidence-based instruction. The bills provide training for teachers so they can be more effective teaching reading. All children can learn to read if properly taught and supported. Please support these bills that are currently in the House Education committee. We need movement on these bills to turn them into law and to help all kids in Michigan succeed!

As the parent of a child with a reading disability, I can attest to the importance of changing the way reading is taught. My daughter had low reading scores for three years before finally working with a private tutor trained in [Structured Literacy](#), the research-proven method for teaching reading.

Sincerely,

Sample Child Letter. If your child could write their letter by hand on lines, it would be very effective!

Dear _____,

When I was little I didn't know how to read and I spelled words wrong a lot. I felt sad a lot and I hated school. After I worked with my tutor I read better and I wanted all my teachers to teach like her. I hope you vote yes so more kids can read better. Here is a picture of me and my tutor.

From,

=====KEEP SCROLLING FOR 2,3, 4 & 5=====

2. Sample letter from Michigan citizens: Simple version

Dear Representative _____:

Senate Bills 380-383 have passed in the Senate that will make a huge impact on the reading crisis in Michigan and for those who struggle to learn to read or that have dyslexia. These bills will require schools to use valid and reliable screening assessments to identify children with decoding and word recognition difficulties. It will provide training based in the science of reading to teachers so they are more effective supporting those who struggle. We need movement on these bills to turn them into law and to help all kids in Michigan succeed!

Sincerely,

=====KEEP SCROLLING FOR 3, 4 & 5=====

3. Sample letter from Michigan Citizens: Detailed version

Detailed Advocacy Letter version [with a message from you at the end:](#)

THE PROBLEM

The latest scores for the National Assessment of Educational Progress showed only 32% of students in 4th grade score at or above the Proficient level. This was not much different from 2017-32% or 1998 - 28%. **After spending millions of dollars many Michigan students are below grade level in reading and writing skills.**

Many things impact this low performance

- inadequate screening for early reading difficulties
- inadequate teacher training
- early reading instruction that is not grounded in the science of reading
- the lack of consistent instructional practices that apply what science teaches us about how the brain learns to read

For children that struggle with dyslexia, these factors pose even greater risk.

THE SOLUTION

Passing legislation to address these issues is key to help children across Michigan fulfill their potential as proficient readers.

IF PASSED THE LEGISLATION WILL REQUIRE:

- Schools to identify children in grades K-3 that struggle with decoding and word recognition skills, indicative of dyslexia, using reliable and valid screening then using a 3-tiered framework of support to address these deficits
- Training for future and current educators about dyslexia and structured literacy instructional practices grounded in the science of reading
- Teachers to have the knowledge above to be certified or to recertify their licensure.
- The creation of an advisory board within the Michigan Dept. of Ed. that will develop or adopt a dyslexia guidebook for use by schools across Michigan

OUR CHILDREN NEED YOU TO PASS SENATE BILLS 380-383 SO ALL CHILDREN CAN LEARN TO READ - EVEN THOSE WITH THE CHARACTERISTICS OF DYSLEXIA!!

[Customize with your own short letter from you here:](#)

Dear Representative _____,

Insert your story here ...

Sincerely,

=====KEEP SCROLLING FOR 4 & 5 =====

4. Directions for Phone Calls to Representatives

IMPORTANT

Calls should happen ON Wednesday, September 28th.

Make Calls to:

(Phone numbers provided below; scroll down below the script)

- The Speaker of the House
- Representatives on the House Education Committee
- The House & Senate bill sponsors

Script:

"Hello. My name is _____. I am calling to ask Representative _____ to support Senate bills 380-383. These bills, which passed overwhelmingly in the Senate, will make a positive difference for those who struggle to learn to read or help those that have dyslexia. The bills require schools to properly screen children for problems with decoding and word recognition and to intervene to help these children with evidence-based instruction. They also include training for teachers so they can be more effective teaching reading, especially to those that struggle. All children can learn to read if properly taught and supported. I ask that Representative _____ support these bills that are currently in the House Education committee. We need movement on these bills to turn them into law and to help all kids in Michigan succeed!"

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Your Representative: Go [here](#).

[Rep. Jason Wentworth](#) (R) Speaker of the House (517) 373-8962

House Education Committee

[Pamela Hornberger](#) (R) Chairperson (517) 373-8931

[Brad Paquette](#) (R) Majority Vice-Chair (517) 373-1796

[Phil Green](#) (R) (517) 373-0476

[Gregory Markkanen](#) (R) (517) 373-0850

[Jack O'Malley](#) (R) (517) 373-0825

[Andrew Beeler](#) (R) (517) 373-0835

[John Damoose](#) (R) (517) 373-2629

[Bryan Posthumus](#) (R) (517) 373-0218

[Darrin Camilleri](#) (D) Minority Vice-Chair (517) 373-0855

[Brenda Carter](#) (D) (517) 373-0475

[Matt Koleszar](#) (D) (517) 373-3816

[Nate Shannon](#) (D) (517) 373-2275

[Lori Stone](#) (D) (517) 373-1772

Dyslexia bill package and sponsors House of Representatives

[House bill 5934](#) Rep. [Julie Brixie](#) (D) Phone: (517) 373-1786

[House bill 5935](#) Rep. [Mary Cavanagh](#) (D) (517) 373-0857

[House bill 5936](#) Rep. [John Damoose](#) (R) (517) 373-2629

[House bill 5937](#) Rep. [Timothy Beson](#) (R) (517) 373-0158

=====KEEP SCROLLING for Senators Bill Sponsors =====

For the Senators that sponsored and passed the bills, call them and let them know you support their efforts, thank them for all they have done for these bills, and tell them NOT TO GIVE UP!

Bill sponsors in the Senate :

Senate bill 380	Sen. Jeff Irwin (D)	517-373-2406
Senate bill 381	Sen. Lana Theis (R)	517-373-2420
Senate bill 382	Sen. Dayna Polehanki (D)	517-373-7350
Senate bill 383	Sen. Jim Runested (R)	517-373-1758

=====KEEP SCROLLING for 5 =====

5. Tag Legislators on Twitter

Tag Legislators and ask them to support the bills.

(Sample tweet):

“Support Senate Bills 380-383. Our families & experts know reading failure is preventable. Support evidence-based screening & instruction. WE HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE TO DO BETTER! [Add legislators @handles \(see below\).](#)”

Sample graphic for Twitter below (can be added to Tweets):



Improve
Early Literacy
Screening &
Teacher Training
So ALL Children
Can Learn
to Read.

House Education Committee

[Pamela Hornberger](#) (R) Chairperson [Pamela Hornberger@PLHornberger](#)
[Brad Paquette](#) (R) Majority Vice-Chair [Brad Paquette@RepPaquette](#)
[Phil Green](#) (R)
[Gregory Markkanen](#) (R) [Representative Greg Markkanen@RepMarkkanen](#)
[Jack O'Malley](#) (R)
[Andrew Beeler](#) (R)
[John Damoose](#) (R) [John Damoose@DamooseForMi](#)
[Bryan Posthumus](#) (R) [Bryan Posthumus@posthumus_bryan](#)

Republican Bill Sponsors

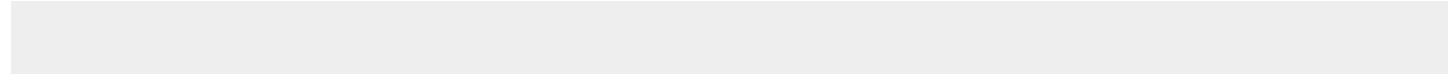
[Darrin Camilleri](#) (D) Minority Vice-Chair [Darrin Camilleri@darrincamilleri](#)
[Brenda Carter](#) (D) [Brenda Carter@RepBrendaCarter](#)
[Matt Koleszar](#) (D) [Rep. Matt Koleszar@koleszar_matt](#)
[Nate Shannon](#) (D) [Nate Shannon@RepNateShannon](#)
[Lori Stone](#) (D)

[MI House Democrats@MI_Democrats](#)

Dyslexia bill package and sponsors House

[House bill 5934](#) Rep. [Julie Brixie](#) (D) [Julie Brixie@juliebrixie](#)
[House bill 5935](#) Rep. [Mary Cavanagh](#) (D) [Mary Cavanagh@MaryforMichigan](#)
[House bill 5936](#) Rep. [John Damoose](#) (R) [John Damoose@DamooseForMi](#)

[House bill 5937](#) Rep. [Timothy Beson](#) (R)



Dyslexia bill package and sponsors Senate :

[Senate bill](#) 380 Sen. [Jeff Irwin](#)(D) **Jeff Irwin**@JeffMIrwin

[Senate bill](#) 381 Sen. [Lana Theis](#)(R) **Senator Lana Theis**@SenLTheis

[Senate bill](#) 382 Sen. [Dayna Polehanki](#)(D) **Senator Dayna Polehanki**@SenPolehanki

[Senate bill](#) 383 Sen. [Jim Runestad](#)(R) **Senator Jim Runestad**@SenJimRunestad