Below you will find a template to create a letter to your MN Senator AND your MN Representative about dyslexia!  Delete the highlighted sections, and change it to your personal information.

Email the same letter to both your MN Senator and MN Representative.

Dear Senator XXXXX OR Representative XXXXX,

I am a constituent in your district, and I write to you today on behalf of my child who, like approximately 135,000 Minnesota students, struggles with reading.

Remove this paragraph and Insert your short personal story here.... Only one of my three children qualify for an IEP (Independent Education Plan) and I need to advocate almost weekly to make sure their educational needs are met. But even with an IEP, the correct remediation programs are not offered so we have to pay for my children to receive Orton-Gillingham instruction. I feel blessed we are able to offer our children the opportunity to read and write. However, I know for many Minnesota families this expense is not obtainable.  I am advocating for my youngest son who continues to show up as an “at risk” reader on our district’s literacy assessments. However, the need is so great in Rochester Schools for interventions that he is not automatically placed into an intervention group.

This legislative session, Decoding Dyslexia Minnesota is advocating for:

* [SF 116](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?f=SF116&b=senate&y=2019&ssn=0)  Dyslexia teacher professional development for 5-year recertification. The reading preparation must include at least five clock hours of training on dyslexia
* [SF 196](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?f=SF196&b=senate&y=2019&ssn=0)  Dyslexia teacher training requirement for teacher preparation programs (Higher Education). Board-approved teacher preparation programs for teachers of elementary education, early childhood education, special education, and reading intervention must include instruction on dyslexia.  Instruction on dyslexia must be in conjunction with the knowledge and practice standards of the International Dyslexia Association.
* [SF 651](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF651&version=latest&session=ls91&session_year=2019&session_number=0)  Dyslexia screening requirement.  A school district must screen for dyslexia (1) all students beginning in kindergarten and no later than the beginning of grade 2, and (2) any student in grade 2 or higher who is identified as not reading at grade level

For the future of our Minnesota children who struggle with reading or who have been diagnosed with dyslexia, I ask for your support in 2019 when the above bills on dyslexia are voted on.  With your help, we can close the achievement gap and help all students receive an equitable education! I greatly appreciate your time and support.

Sincerely,

XXXXXXXXXX

\*\*ADDRESS\*\*VERY IMPORTANT - to prove that you are their constituent\*\*