

EQUITABLE LITERACY FOR ALL

www.equitableliteracyforall.org

April 24, 2023

Honorable Anthony Portantino
1021 O Street, Suite 7630
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **SB 691 (Portantino) – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Portantino:

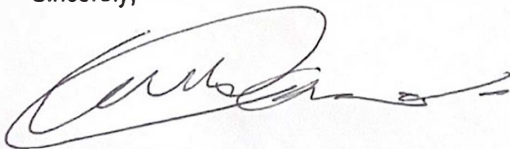
I write on behalf of *Equitable Literacy for All* in support of SB 691. This bill would require the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt evidence-based screening tools which are culturally, linguistically, and developmentally appropriate to identify students at risk for dyslexia and provide that all California students are screened annually in kindergarten through second grade with screening results being made available on a timely basis to parents/guardians and teachers, as specified.

We are a group of informed parents, advocates, educators and supporters who collectively brought a resolution to the California PTA related to ensuring equitable literacy for all children. We have learned from many literacy experts, policy experts, community leaders and advocates on how that can be accomplished for our children. We are proud to announce that our Resolution entitled "*Equitable Literacy for All Students*" was passed on April 22, 2023 at the California State PTA Convention. **SB 691** is in alignment and supports one of four components that we believe are critical: screening. We know universal screenings to identify children who are at risk of reading and literacy disorders is key for ensuring those children will learn to read proficiently.

We also recognize and acknowledge dyslexia is the single largest learning disability. Without universal screening for signs of dyslexia, many students are never identified as being at risk and, consequentially, never get the intervention they need to become literate. We believe SB 691 will benefit ALL CHILDREN and stand in strong support.

Thank you for authoring SB 691 and for your commitment to improving reading outcomes for California students.

Sincerely,



Parents/Advocates In Support of
Equitable Literacy for All