

# MONTEREY COUNTY



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March 13, 2023

The Honorable Anthony Portantino  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Room 7630  
Sacramento, Ca 95814

**Re: SB 691 (Portantino) Dyslexia Risk Screening. – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Portantino:

The County of Monterey is pleased to support your measure Senate Bill (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.

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. Children showing signs of dyslexia can reliably be identified before they experience school failure, which can help put them on the path to reading success. Early identification, as proposed in SB 691, makes early intervention possible, sparing children years of struggle with lasting academic, social, and emotional impacts.

For these reasons, the County of Monterey strongly supports your measure SB 391. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the County of Monterey's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

Luis A. Alejo, Chair  
Board of Supervisors

Cc: The Honorable Members, Senate Education Committee  
Lynn Lorber, Chief Consultant, Senate Education Committee  
Amanda Richie, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus  
Hon. Anna Caballero, 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
Hon. John Laird, 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
Hon. Robert Rivas, 29<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Hon. Dawn Addis, 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Justin Garrett, Legislative Advocate, California State Association of Counties (CSAC)  
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)