

**U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology**

*Dyslexia and the Need to READ:  
H.R. 3033, the Research Excellence and Advancements for Dyslexia Act*

**HEARING CHARTER**

**Wednesday, September 30, 2015  
10:00 a.m.  
2318 Rayburn House Office Building**

**Purpose**

At 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 30, 2015, the Science, Space, and Technology Committee will hold a hearing titled *Dyslexia and the Need to READ: H.R. 3033, the Research Excellence and Advancements for Dyslexia Act*. The purpose of this hearing is to discuss H.R. 3033, the Research Excellence and Advancements for Dyslexia Act. Topics for the hearing include: the need for federal legislation to address dyslexia in the American populace, the importance of early identification for children and students with dyslexia, professional development needed for teachers and administrators for students with dyslexia, and what special curricula and educational tools would be most helpful. Witnesses will address what research and development would be most beneficial for practical applications to overcome dyslexia based on their personal experience and expertise.

**Witnesses**

- **Ms. Barbara Wilson**, Co-Founder and President, Wilson Language Training
- **Dr. Paula Tallal**, Senior Research Scientist, Center for Human Development, University of California, San Diego; Adjunct Professor, Salk Institute for Biological Studies; Founder and Director, Scientific Learning Corporation
- **Dr. Rachel Robillard**, Assistant Director, 504 Services and Response to Intervention, Austin Independent School District

**Background**

Dyslexia is a difficulty to read fluently and with accurate comprehension despite a normal or above-average intelligence. It is the most common learning disability, with an estimated 17-20% of the population suffering from some form of dyslexia.<sup>1</sup> While dyslexia is considered a learning disability, many talented people—especially in science, engineering, and the creative arts—have been diagnosed with dyslexia, including Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, and John Chambers, CEO of Cisco Systems.<sup>2 3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.yalescientific.org/2011/04/the-paradox-of-dyslexia-slow-reading-fast-thinking/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.dyslexia.com/famous.htm>

The Committee held a hearing titled *The Science of Dyslexia* in fall 2014 where witnesses identified the need to better translate research results to practical applications, early identification of children with dyslexia, professional development for teachers and others in working with dyslexics, and curricula development and other tools for children with dyslexia.<sup>4</sup>

In July, Chairman Smith introduced H.R. 3033, the Research Excellence and Advancements for Dyslexia (READ) Act, with bipartisan co-sponsors.<sup>5</sup> The READ Act requires the president's annual budget request to Congress include a line item for the Research in Disabilities Education program of the National Science Foundation (NSF). It also requires the NSF to devote at least \$5 million annually to dyslexia research, which would focus on best practices in the following areas:

- Early identification of children and students with dyslexia
- Professional development about dyslexia for teachers and administrators
- Curricula development and evidence-based educational tools for children with dyslexia

The READ Act does not increase federal spending. It authorizes multi-directorate, merit-reviewed, and competitively awarded dyslexia research projects using funds appropriated for the NSF Research and Related Activities account and the Education and Human Resources Directorate.

The bill is attached for reference.

1 Attachment:

H.R. 3033, the Research Excellence and Advancements for Dyslexia (READ) Act

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.businessinsider.com/cisco-ceo-john-chambers-talks-dyslexia-2014-7>

<sup>4</sup> For more information on the hearing, see: <https://science.house.gov/legislation/hearings/full-committee-hearing-science-dyslexia>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://science.house.gov/news/press-releases/smith-bill-supports-dyslexia-research>