

CYNTHIA GARDNER-MORSE, M.Ed.
LITERACY TUTOR
Cold Spring Farm
Calais, Vermont 05648
(802) 223-5738
cgardnermorse@gmail.com

18 April 2025

Re: (section 10 of H.480) S.15 wording

Dear Senators,

I note that currently the date for implementing this correction is July 1, 2025. Please, for the sake of older struggling readers, keep that date. Struggling readers in grades 4 -12 deserve and need support immediately. They are already STRUGGLING to access their schoolwork.

As Ms. Emily Lesh states in written testimony dated today, "In March, over 75 educators participated in a live professional learning workshop focused on adolescent literacy and nearly 200 educators and administrators registered and received the recording for viewing after the live workshops." In addition to that training, the Agency continues to offer support to teachers who reach out with concerns or questions.

Delaying implementation will continue inequity for older struggling readers, a problem that Act 139 created. This legislation is intended not to continue, but to correct, that problem.

How will a delay help a struggling reader in grades 4-12? Let's help those children immediately!

Sincerely,

Cynthia Gardner-Morse, M.Ed.

Concerned Citizen and Literacy Tutor
(802) 223-5738 (home landline - no texts)