February 5, 2025

Dear Education Committee,

My name is Jordan Zakery, Legislative Director for ExcelinEd in Action. Our organization works with state lawmakers and partner organizations to pass legislation that empowers families with educational opportunity, prepares students for college and career, prioritizes early literacy grounded in the science of reading, expands innovation and strengthens school performance.

I am writing to express ExcelinEd in Action's support for IA SF72, which would strengthen the state's ongoing approach to literacy and improve reading proficiency.

By creating a scholarship, IA SF72 would help teachers more easily earn the dyslexia specialist endorsement. This endorsement better prepares them to assess, identify, and support students with dyslexia to become proficient readers.

Early identification and intervention are crucial for supporting students with dyslexia and helping them develop effective reading strategies. When more teachers are trained, more students with dyslexia excel.

We are grateful for your leadership and urge you to pass IA SF72 to ensure all Iowa children are confident, proficient readers.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this critical policy.
Respectfully,

Jordan Zakery
Legislative Director, Midwest
ExcelinEd in Action