

Chairman Duffey, ranking member Sweeney, and members of the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee, my name is Moira Erwine, and I would like to offer support for **HB 58**.

As a thirty -one year veteran educator, and a past Board member of the International Dyslexia Association, President of Westshore Council of the International Reading Association, I feel compelled to share with you my testimony in this format.

My fondest memory related to this bill is being a pen pal with my first grade teacher through adulthood until Ms Loomis passed. She taught me how to write. Her cursive notes spoke to me. Ms. Loomis built a relationship with me that stands as a special memory and a legacy through handwriting.

I was taught how to teach manuscript and cursive writing as an undergrad at Baldwin-Wallace College in the early 80's and had the joy of teaching handwriting to my students in Kdg, First and Third grades as a teacher in Bay Village. As an administrator, I was exposed to Handwriting Without Tears. As I went along my administrative journey I was exposed to multi-sensory language and tools to support handwriting for students who have reading, writing and language disabilities.

Somewhere down our journey of accountability, handwriting became an a la cart choice for districts. Many pushed this out of the curriculum. Now we have generations of students who cannot write well and are struggling learners. They lack the perseverance in writing as well as the stamina to be effective in communicating whether that is on a state test or in a student led project meeting the needs of the community.

Handwriting most certainly plays a critical role in 21st century education. Learning a keyboard is simply positioning. Handwriting activates the reading network of the brain.

"After the children were taught to print, [patterns of brain activation](#) in response to letters showed increased activation of that reading network, including the fusiform gyrus, along with the inferior frontal gyrus and posterior parietal regions of the brain, which adults use for processing written language — even though the children were still at a very early level as writers."

NY Times/Why Handwriting Is Still Essential in the Keyboard Age By PERRI KLASS, M.D. JUNE 20, 2016 6:45 AM

With utmost respect,

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