



May 2, 2017

The Honorable Mike Duffey
Chair, House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Readiness
Ohio House of Representatives
Riffe Center
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Chairman Duffey:

We write as interested parties concerning HB 58 – Cursive Writing, co-sponsored by Rep. Andrew Brenner and Rep. Marilyn Slaby. We understand that many Ohio school districts have moved away from extensive instruction in cursive handwriting. This is largely due to the many demands and the limited time available for instruction, combined with the emergent use of technology for written/typed reports.

While we understand the importance of being able to read materials that are expressed in cursive handwriting and the ability to produce one's own signature in cursive format, we believe students' daily use of these skills has diminished. For example, technology allows the conversion of our country's founding documents from cursive to typed text, thereby allowing every citizen to read these important materials. Therefore, the priority placed on cursive writing instruction as required in HB 58 is unwarranted.

Further, our organizations strongly support local control and the responsibility of the school administration and the board of education to determine the appropriate course of study and the allocation of time to meet the demands of that course of study. We oppose state and federal mandates that require school districts to devote limited resources and time to such requirements. As such, we cannot support HB 58.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Damon Asbury
Director of Legislative Services, OSBA

Thomas P. Ash
Director of Governmental Relations, BASA

Barbara Shaner
Legislative Advocacy Consultant, OASBO

cc: Members of the House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Readiness
Rep. Andrew Brenner, Chair, House Education and Career Readiness Committee
Rep. Marilyn Slaby, Vice-Chair, House Education and Career Readiness Committee