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Committees

Education and Career Readiness-
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Joint Education Oversight

REP. ANDREW O. BRENNER

January 24, 2018

Chairman Duffey, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee, thank you for re-hearing House Bill 58 on its re-referral to this committee. As you all know, this bill requires cursive handwriting to be taught in our schools. That being said, House Bill 58 did cause quite a bit of heartburn for many of us as it is a mandate. Though my joint sponsor and I are appreciative that this body favorably reported out our bill, we ask that you now reconsider Substitute House Bill 58.

Substitute House Bill 58 accomplishes the goal and intent of House Bill 58 by maintaining the importance of cursive handwriting being taught in our schools, but without the mandate. Substitute House Bill 58 requires that the State Board of Education develops and adopts a model curriculum on cursive handwriting instruction. By approaching the subject of cursive handwriting in this manner, Substitute House Bill 58 will provide curriculum support to our schools and teachers, maintain local control, and ensure our students have the opportunity to learn how to read and write in cursive.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for reconsidering Substitute House Bill 58, we believe that this approach is the best approach and would urge and appreciate your support. Thank you and we would be happy to answer any questions.