



State Representative Marilyn Slaby  
Ohio House of Representatives, 38<sup>th</sup> District

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**Sponsor Testimony**  
**House Bill 58**  
**February 24, 2017**  
**Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee**

Chairman Duffey, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 58. This bill will direct school districts to incorporate handwriting instruction into existing curriculum from kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Learning this valuable skill will allow children to better develop literacy skills, fine motor skills, as well as increase cognitive development for children. Cursive writing instruction is included in model curriculum for students, and this bill would take the step of incorporating it into the state's Common Core standards. Students learn sounds as they learn to write letters. As students learn to put letters and sounds together, that helps students with spelling as well as reading.

This bill adds another dimension to vocabulary and language lessons, granting students another method of expression in addition to the mental benefits. A different way

of understanding language can help students learn to read, and may provide students with fine motor skills they could otherwise miss out on.

Chairman Duffey, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee, I thank you for your time, and I hope that you will join Representative Brenner and I in support of House Bill 58. We will be happy to answer any questions at this time.