

State Representative Marilyn Slaby

Ohio House of Representatives, 38th District

**Sponsor Testimony**

**House Bill 58**

**November 13, 2018**

**Senate Education Committee**

Chairwoman Lehner, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 58. This bill will direct the State Board of Education to adopt model curriculum for cursive handwriting so it can be available as a resource for local schools.

Learning the valuable skill of cursive handwriting will allow children to better develop literacy skills, fine motor skills, as well as increase cognitive development for children. Students learn sounds as they learn to write letters. When students learn to put letters and sounds together, it helps them with spelling, as well as reading.

Cursive handwriting adds dimension to vocabulary and language lessons, granting students another method of expression in addition to the cognitive benefits. A different way of understanding the same language can help students read better, and may provide students with fine motor skills they could otherwise miss out on. Learning Cursive can even help with new language acquisition; a valuable 21st century skill that can help students compete in the marketplace later on. HB 58 can help our students gain the skills they need to compete in tomorrow’s economy.

Many primary source historical documents are written in cursive. Whether the documents are from our country’s Founding Fathers, or their own relatives, kids can gain access to rich history by knowing cursive. This bill can help local schools give that access to their students.

Chairwoman Lehner, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Education 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 you may have.