

Testimony: House Bill 725, 2020 Legislative Session
Jacqueline Messing, Ph.D.
Position: Support

Dear Esteemed Representatives,

I strongly support bill HB 725, which requires that Maryland's students learn handwriting and cursive. These life skills are critical to a person's ability to communicate and self-express.

As an MCPS parent we want our child to be able to write and not just type on a keyboard or keypad.

As a college professor I know the research showing that students learn and remember more of what they *write down* on paper than what they type into a laptop.

Technology changes but processes of learning and cognition do not.

A Learning Secret: Don't Take Notes with a Laptop. *Scientific American*. June 3, 2014.
By Cindi May.

It appears that students who use **laptops** can **take notes** in a fairly mindless, rote fashion, with little analysis or synthesis by the brain. This kind of shallow transcription fails to promote a meaningful understanding or application of the information. Students who used longhand remembered more and had a deeper understanding of the material. (May, Cindi. "A Learning Secret: Don't Take Notes with a Laptop. *Scientific American*. June 3, 2014.

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/>)

Thank you for your support of this bill.

Sincerely,
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