

Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
and Members of The Ways and Means Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, MD

RE: HB 827-Education- Public Schools-Instruction in Print and Cursive Handwriting- SUPPORT

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of The Committee,

Developing an attractive, legible, handwriting style certainly has great aesthetic value, but it also has numerous mental, physical, social, and practical benefits such as those listed here:

- Improved neural connections- Due to the sequential finger movements involved with cursive handwriting, the brain is stimulated, and the dynamic interplay of the left and right cerebral hemisphere is improved;
- Improved ability to read cursive handwriting- When individuals cannot read cursive handwriting, they are cursively illiterate in their own language. The ability to read cursive is required in many settings;
- Increased writing speed- The connectivity of a simple cursive style is faster to write than the stop-and-start strokes of printing;
- Higher quality signature- Cursive handwriting will improve the attractiveness, legibility, and fluidity of one's signature, and;
- Cursive handwriting increases self-respect. Studies have shown that the ability to master the skill of writing clearly and fluidly increases the students' confidence to communicate freely with the written word.

It is for these reasons that I ask you to vote a FAVORABLE report for HB 827- Instruction in Print and Cursive Handwriting.

Thank you for your time,

Sarah Price
221 Miller Street
Westernport, MD