



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1876		DATE: 1/21/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANN MOLONEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/21/2026 9:44 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have 4 sons that cannot write in cursive! Please make it mandatory!!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/21/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BRANDON BAY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 7:52 AM
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I support the intent and substance of both HB 2115 and HB 1876.

These bills advance the same important goal: ensuring that Missouri students are taught cursive writing. Whether this policy moves forward under HB 2115 or HB 1876, the outcome for students is what matters.

Cursive is more than a nostalgic skill. It supports fine motor development, reading fluency, and cognitive processing. It also ensures that students can read historical documents, personal correspondence, and handwritten materials that remain part of daily life. Removing this skill from education leaves students less prepared, not more.

I encourage the committee to advance whichever vehicle—HB 2115 or HB 1876—is most likely to move successfully through the legislative process. What matters is that at least one of these bills becomes law so that cursive instruction remains part of a well-rounded education for Missouri’s children.

Thank you for your consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CALVINO HAMMERMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 8:58 AM	
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As a current public high school student, I highly value the ability to write in cursive. I went to a private elementary school, every second grader learned cursive. This skill is crucial to be able to read the constitution, or even just sign a check. I believe this skill should be provided to all students in the state.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DANIELLE BENTLEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/21/2026 10:55 AM	

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Cursive handwriting is often labeled outdated, but removing it from our school districts has created a real gap in literacy and truth-seeking.

As someone who actively seeks truth, I regularly study original books and records dating back to the 1700s and 1800s. I don't take modern interpretations at face value—I go back to original sources. Increasingly, those sources are written in cursive. When students are not taught how to read cursive, they are effectively barred from accessing original historical documents, including the U.S. Constitution, early laws, bylaws, land deeds, and foundational policies written by our forefathers.

This matters because interpretation shapes understanding. If children cannot read original documents, they must rely on secondhand summaries and digital translations. In a lifetime where they have already witnessed history being revised or erased, we should be teaching them how to verify information for themselves—not training them to accept someone else's version of the past.

Beyond history, cursive supports cognitive development, strengthens memory and comprehension, and provides a consistent way to sign legal documents—something still required in civic and legal life.

Cursive is not about nostalgia. It is about literacy, discernment, and independence. Teaching it equips future generations to read the documents that define their rights, question what they are told, and seek truth for themselves.

Currently the school district my children attended were taught this in third grade, but was not enforced afterwards. At 19 years old I personally am teaching my son how to have a cursive signature. This is unacceptable and sad that school districts have moved to such a digital platform that eliminates the practice of penmanship. Please support this bill and what value it brings back to the forefront.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DR. BOB F. CURTIS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/21/2026 12:14 PM
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I cannot personally testify, so I'm writing in support of this common sense legislation. This basic discipline is imperative to education and to any future education and understanding by students. To refuse this basic, time tested discipline is to advocate for the dumbing down of students, which is not the goal of true education. Please pass this legislation. There is absolutely no reason to fail to do so so. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JACLYN RIEBOLD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/21/2026 10:31 AM
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I would like to share that I am personally in favor of cursive handwriting being brought back to all public schools for students of all ages. With initial teaching being in the elementary schools but expanding to older ages through applied practices in various classes course work to be used for answers only written in cursive.

I have children, now ages 24, 19 and 14. My older two did not have cursive handwriting in elementary school in our home district, Northwest R-1 in Jefferson County. We did our best to teach them at home, as it not only affects their ability to read our founding documents and understand our how government is suppose to work. But they couldn't legally sign their name to documents such as passport applications, car loan agreements, etc. Our youngest was also not receiving the lessons when in elementary school and that was one of many reasons, why we choose to withdraw her from public school and begin homeschooling her starting in 5th grade.

I strongly urge this bill to pass committee and become law in Missouri, so our children, whoa re our future, can learn cursive handwriting and utilize it, as it has far reaching implications in adulthood.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JOSH FREEMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/21/2026 11:14 AM
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Cursive writing may not be as prevalent in the tech world of today, but in my opinion it is a relevant skill for school districts who are currently teaching it to keep being taught or for those that no longer do, to reintroduce it back. Teaching cursive writing is also another way to reinforce reading and language arts skills, as well as building and maintaining fine motor skills. Thank you for the opportunity and the consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: OTTO FAJEN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3202	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI NEA		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1810 E. ELM ST.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/21/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TONIE NOBLE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/18/2026 6:47 AM

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There are way to many young people that not only cannot sign their name in cursive but that cannot read cursive writing.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 9:53 AM

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While cursive writing may have cultural or nostalgic value, this bill mandates a rigid instructional requirement without regard to existing classroom realities, student needs, or teacher capacity.

Requiring every elementary student to pass a teacher-constructed proficiency test in cursive creates new liability risks for educators and districts, particularly in classrooms already navigating learning disabilities, IEPs, behavioral challenges, and staffing shortages.

This bill shifts responsibility downward—onto teachers—without providing resources, training standards, or liability protections.

A “teacher-constructed test” invites inconsistency, disputes, and potential litigation, especially when tied to proficiency requirements rather than exposure or optional instruction.

In today’s environment, districts are already struggling with safety, literacy gaps, and workforce burnout. Adding another mandated assessment increases risk without clear educational return.

More importantly, Missouri should be raising expectations around professional accountability, classroom safety, and core literacy, not micromanaging penmanship.

If the General Assembly is going to legislate classrooms, it should focus on stricter standards for instructional quality, student protection, and staff readiness—not looser, symbolic mandates that consume time and create compliance traps.

Cursive can be offered as enrichment or integrated at local discretion. It should not be imposed as a statewide proficiency requirement with testing consequences and regulatory exposure.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to oppose HB 1876.