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**October 12, 2019**

**Representative Jeremy Thiesfeldt**

**Education Committee Chairman**

**P.O. Box 8953**

**Madison, WI 53708**

**Dear Representative Thiesfeldt:**

**I would like to have your support in scheduling public hearings for the cursive writing bill AB 459. It is currently in the Education Committee and I am anxious for it to get approved.**

**I am a member of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs (GFWC) in Wisconsin. The organization is the world’s largest women’s volunteer organization. There are members in all 50 states and in 11 countries with a membership of 80,000. GFWC-WI has 1,600 members statewide.**

**In May of 2018 the GFWC-WI membership voted on the following resolution at our state convention:**

**RESOLVED, the General Federation of Women’s Clubs-Wisconsin supports the reinstatement of Cursive Handwriting instruction in the Wisconsin Department of Education public school curriculum.**

**Recently sixteen states or cities have passed bills to reinstate cursive writing. They are Arizona, Louisiana, Ohio, Arkansas, Virginia, California, Florida, Texas, Tennessee, New Jersey, Indiana, Alabama, Massachusetts, Georgia, North Carolina, and New York City.**

**The benefits of teaching cursive writing are numerous. A few of them include:**

* **Helping dyslectic and autistic students**
* **Helping students retain more with handwritten notes rather than keyboard**
* **Improving hand eye coordination; for example, a doctor in a medical school laments the fact that students in surgery lacked the hand eye coordination to properly perform surgeries.**
* **Having the ability to read cursive documents such as our Constitution**
* **Enabling them to sign their names on important documents.**

**I look forward to hearing from you about this important matter.**

**Sincerely,**