

Memo

To: Members, Wisconsin State Assembly

From: Bob Baxter, Executive Director

cc: Peggy Wirtz-Olsen, President

re: AB 435 related to cursive writing

Date: September 25, 2021

The Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC) registers in opposition to AB 435 mandating cursive writing. Research on cursive writing indicates there are few benefits for teaching this skill. These limited benefits include letter formation and spacing for young learners and some increased flow of ideas for older learners. This research is offset by the realities of an increasingly digital and print based world. We believe such curriculum and instruction decisions should be made independently and autonomously by local school boards. School board members are the closest elected officials to students and families and are the most knowledgeable about their schools. School boards are deeply invested in the welfare and success of their students and communities and are best suited to make the decision to implement or not to implement cursive writing requirements. WEAC President Peggy Wirtz-Olsen said, “with all of the challenges that are facing our students and educators today, the fact that members of the Wisconsin state legislature are focused on cursive writing shows how misguided their priorities are for our Wisconsin schools.”