

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 654

Expressing support for the designation of January 23, 2018, as “National Handwriting Day” and recognizing the importance of handwriting for cognitive, artistic, and educational benefit.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 7, 2017

Mr. TONKO (for himself and Mr. LANCE) submitted the following resolution;  
which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the designation of January 23, 2018, as “National Handwriting Day” and recognizing the importance of handwriting for cognitive, artistic, and educational benefit.

Whereas John Hancock was a great patriot from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, having served as President of the Continental Congress (1775–1777) and Governor of Massachusetts (1780–1785);

Whereas John Hancock was the first to sign the Declaration of Independence in 1776, in a large, prominent signature;

Whereas the term “John Hancock” is now synonymous with a handwritten signature;

Whereas the date of Hancock’s birth, January 23, 1737, has been known as National Handwriting Day since 1977,

when first promulgated by the Writing Instrument Manufacturers Association;

Whereas handwriting is recognized by educators throughout the world as an important component of a child's education;

Whereas research has shown that improved handwriting skills have benefits for cognitive development and motor skills and can lead to improved writing skills and comprehension;

Whereas handwriting has been shown to increase neural development and engage areas of the brain associated with language, memory, word recognition, and emotion;

Whereas handwriting engages 14 different abilities, including visual focusing, mental attention, organized physical movements, receptive language, inner expressive language, memory recall, concentration with awareness, spatial perception, organization, integration, eye-hand coordination, motor planning, tactile input, and crossing midline; and

Whereas handwriting is an important form of individual artistic expression: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved*, That House of Representatives—

2            (1) supports the designation of “National  
3        Handwriting Day”; and

4            (2) recognizes the importance of handwriting in  
5        cognitive, artistic, and educational development.

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