

*A final note regarding the testimony of Representative Underwood about LD 78: it is noteworthy, and disconcerting, that his praise of California's similar legislation quoted its phrase "joined italics" — one of two modes of writing that fulfill the handwriting mandate in that state — while absolutely omitting any acknowledgment of this choice in this bill that he sponsors here in Maine. It is as if he wished the people of his own state to accept uncritically the fact of his praise (for legislation passed in a different state) without knowing the full content of existing legislation which he so praises.*

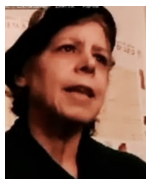
*As most of us know or can surmise, the cursive handwriting which the Representative extols is a mode of writing which looks like this:*

*"The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.  
The motto of the State of Maine is: DIRIGO."*

*The other mode of our handwriting which found approval (called "joined italics" in matter that the Representative cites and praises, but which the very bill he sponsors does not follow) looks like this: :*

*"The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.  
The motto of the State of Maine is: DIRIGO."*

*If any form of our handwriting at all is to be governmentally mandated throughout a state — as if in sheer disregard of the value of local control — the good common sense of Maine's people can easily ascertain which of these modes of writing is the more effective: the more fluently practical, the more accident-resistant in the long run, and the more in line with what (according to research) the most rapid and most legible writers actually produce when they set pen to paper (or, increasingly nowadays, stylus to tablet).*



*Yours for better letters,*

*Kate Gladstone*

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