

Chair Neron, Vice Chair Dobson, Vice Chair McIntire, and Members of the Committee, my name is Ava Thaemert and I am a sophomore at West Salem High School. I am testifying against House Bill 2251. This is because I believe that the personal electronic devices that are being prohibited, can be used as an extremely helpful tool inside and outside of the classroom. Giving students the chance to understand and build their knowledge on these fastly improving devices will only help them whereas taking them away will limit the resources that have been developed overtime.

Throughout recent years technology has been implemented in the classroom as an educational tool and a way to expand students' knowledge. Whether it is personal laptops, tablets, or cellphones, this technology has helped students with learning, research and accessing educational resources. Banning these devices would slow down the modern learning process and stop the students ability to use digital materials that will later be used in the work world.

Outside of the classroom; like at school sponsored events or at school provided transportation, banning technology can become a safety hazard and create a lack of communication between students and guardians. Most of the time at sporting events or musical events, the athlete or musician that is participating has no way to contact their guardian unless it is through their own personal device. While yes, during school hours it is simple for the guardian to contact the school when needing to communicate with the child, but once the school hours are over and the bell has rung, it makes it much more complicated for there to be a steady source of communication. So by taking these personal devices away at any school event, it can create security risks.

Thank you for your time, Ava Thaemert