

Submitter: Diana Sterling

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2251

Please !!! We must lift our state and our children up from having some of the worst reading and math scores in the US.

We must lift our HS graduation rates - we are at about 82%, while the national average is 87%.

We must lift ourselves out of Oregon's ranking of having the worst mental health status among our youth.

You know, I remember the smoking lounge in my high school. I'm that old. The SMOKING LOUNGE. And I remember seeing my brother out there in the smoking area when he was a senior.

Of course, over the years, we saw fit to shut down high school smoking lounges. We made the assessment that the impact on students' health, the co-dependence of the school enabling youth smoking and nicotine addiction far outweighed any reason to offer this privilege to students.

My brother remains addicted to cigarettes, and it was his youthful exposure that locked it all in for him.

Let's not be complicit with the addiction to social media. Let's no longer turn a blind eye to the serious damage that cellphone content is wreaking on our youth. Let's help our students thrive and our schools climb out of the academic and mental health holes we are in.

To continue doing the same thing and expecting a different outcome just makes no sense.

As a pediatrician, as an evidence-based policy nerd, as someone who knows Oregon students' best days are ahead if we have the courage to make some tough choices,

Please join me in advocating for ending the use of cell phones in what should be the rich, engaging, learning environments of Oregon classrooms.