

Submitter:

Samantha Loza

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2251

5/5/2025

RE: Oregon SB 2251

As a Career and College Coordinator at a public high school, I disagree with banning students' phones from school. Juniors and Seniors need to be able to make phone calls as well as verify accounts with FAFSA and their colleges (particularly in regard to 2-step verification requirements). Because this generation is already telephone phobic, I encourage and assist with the making of telephone calls to colleges, agencies, and employers. Without access to phones, students will not be able to troubleshoot or access important and timely resources as necessary for successful transition to higher education.

As a parent, the most frightening day of my life was when there was a shooting at my son's high school. His father and I were unable to reach him for the first hour after the shooting was reported, because his phone was stowed away from use in his classroom. This caused everyone unnecessary distress. Last year, the school where I work was locked down and evacuated as a result of threat of violence. Cell phones were a crucial lifeline to parents, students and staff.

Maybe let's talk about gun control and make firearms more difficult to procure before we set our sights on demonizing personal electronics. We could also reduce class sizes so students feel seen and engaged, making them less likely to focus on their phones. There are a host of better solutions than impeding communication.