

Submitter:

Shannon Wakem

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2251

I am the mother of an 8th grade and 6th grade student. We have always had the rule of no cell phones until 14. We recently gave my 8th grader a phone at 14.5 yrs old and my 12 year old daughter does not have one. Most of my daughter's close friends have had cell phones since elementary school. It has been difficult to maintain this standard in our household and school district. The science is clear of how destructive and disruptive these devices are in school. Most recently my daughter was a subject to a bullying incident in which she was harassed by a group of girls who took out their cell phones and started recording my daughter while trying to encourage a fight. They gathered around her and started chanting "fight, fight, fight. My daughter was left in hysterics and she is a highly social kid with tons of friends. I cant imagine what is happening to kids that are struggling with friends and relationships. That being said I know schools and teachers do not want these devices in schools....the problem is parents who want their kids to have access to them 24/7. The hardest thing for a parent is raising your kids around other kids who have access to everything with little supervision...I support this measure as the science is clear on the harm...our kids aren't learning....lets level the playing field and ban phones/devices To improve our kids mental health and get them back to learning.