

Submitter: Brooke Diaz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2251

Dear Chair and Members of the House Committee on Education,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for House Bill 2251, which mandates that Oregon school districts adopt policies prohibiting student use of personal electronic devices during instructional time.

As a parent of two in the Tigard Tualatin School District, I have observed firsthand the detrimental impact that unrestricted cellphone use has on students' academic performance and mental well-being. Research indicates that excessive screen time contributes to decreased attention spans, lower academic achievement, and increased anxiety among students.

After concerted efforts to encourage data-backed, bell-to-bell smartphone restrictions within TTSD, the district has opted to defer any restriction to the State. By implementing a consistent, statewide policy, we can create learning environments that foster focus, engagement, and interpersonal connections for all students in Oregon.

Notably, several Oregon school districts, including Portland Public Schools, have already adopted "off and away all day" policies with positive results. These measures have led to improved classroom behavior, enhanced student participation, and a reduction in distractions. HB 2251 builds upon these successes by providing clear guidance and uniform standards across all districts.

In conclusion, HB 2251 represents a proactive step toward enhancing the educational experience and safety for Oregon students. By limiting personal electronic device use during school hours, we can promote healthier learning environments and support the academic and emotional development of our youth.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brooke Diaz