

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

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Many parents believe their children keep phones tucked away during the school day, but the reality is far different. Students are frequently distracted, often checking their phones out of fear of missing messages or social media updates, even under strict classroom management. This constant preoccupation undermines their ability to focus on academics.

As a teacher with over 20 years of experience, both before and after the rise of smartphones, I've witnessed profound changes in student behavior and learning. Social awareness has declined; students struggle to read cues, engage in face-to-face communication, and build meaningful in-person relationships. Their capacity for sustained focus has also diminished, as they are increasingly conditioned to seek quick, shallow bursts of information.

Most critically, academic language proficiency has suffered. Time once spent reading for pleasure is now spent scrolling, and the informal, abbreviated language of digital spaces leaves students ill-prepared for the demands of rigorous texts and precise academic expression.

Teachers are exhausted. Removing this major barrier to student engagement will yield noticeable improvements in learning and overall student growth.