

Submitter:

Juan 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 as a parent in the Tigard-Tualatin School District and a strong supporter of House Bill 2251, which calls for statewide limits on personal electronic device use by students during the school day.

Over the past few years, I've watched with growing concern as smartphones have become a persistent source of distraction in our children's classrooms. While technology can be a powerful educational tool when used intentionally, unrestricted personal device use during instructional time is undermining the learning process. Teachers are forced to compete with apps, games, and social media—making it harder for students to stay present and engaged.

In our district, many parents have advocated for meaningful policies to address this issue. Unfortunately, local leadership has opted not to take action without state-level direction. That's why HB 2251 is so important. It provides the necessary framework to ensure that schools across Oregon take this issue seriously and prioritize student focus and well-being.

Other districts that have adopted comprehensive phone policies—like Portland Public Schools—are already seeing the benefits: calmer classrooms, better student participation, and fewer behavioral disruptions. A unified, statewide approach will help level the playing field and support educators in creating environments where learning is the central focus.

HB 2251 is not about eliminating technology; it's about setting boundaries that allow students to make the most of their time in school. I urge you to support this bill and help all Oregon students thrive.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Juan F. Diaz