

Submitter: Diane Bradley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2251

Dear Senate Committee on Education,

Thank you for your consideration of this important bill for which I am in support. Every single day, we learn more about the harmful effects of technology devices on our brains, our bodies, and our developmental ecosystem. My children here in Bend both attend elementary school and I'm reminded daily of how quickly technology infiltrates their life and view on the world. I want to support the concept of keeping education focused on teaching, less about technology, and more about learning how to learn. Hands on, distraction free.

Rationale for my support:

1. Academic Distraction

Numerous studies have shown that cell phones are a major source of distraction in the classroom. Students often use them to text, access social media, or play games, which reduces their focus and hampers academic performance. A phone-free environment promotes deeper engagement with lessons and learning materials.

2. Mental Health and Well-being

Social media and constant connectivity contribute to increased levels of anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem among students. Banning phones during the school day can create a healthier atmosphere, encouraging face-to-face interactions and a stronger sense of community.

3. Cyberbullying Prevention

Cell phones enable cyberbullying to occur in real time during school hours. Removing access during the day would significantly limit the opportunity for such behavior to occur, thus contributing to a safer environment for all students.

4. Equity and Inclusion

Not all students have the latest phones or data plans, leading to feelings of exclusion and social hierarchy based on material possession. Banning phones ensures a more equitable environment where students are judged by their character and contributions rather than their devices.

5. Academic Integrity

Cell phones make it easier for students to cheat during tests and assignments. Prohibiting them can help maintain fairness and uphold academic standards.

Conclusion

I believe that banning cell phones in schools will lead to a more focused, safe, and inclusive learning environment. I urge the administration to take this step for the betterment of all students' academic and personal development here in Central Oregon.

Sincerely,

Diane Bradley
Bend, OR