

Submitter:

Melissa Bilbrey

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2251

As an educator, I have witnessed firsthand the decline in student focus and attention span directly linked to the pervasive presence of personal electronics in the classroom. Smartphones are not only a distraction to individual students but also to the entire class when educators must interrupt instruction to redirect off-task behavior.

Beyond the immediate disruption, the content accessible through these devices is often inappropriate and harmful. Many students are exposed to material that undermines their emotional and developmental well-being, with content that is far beyond their age level. This unfiltered access poses a serious risk to their mental, emotional, and even spiritual development.

Moreover, personal electronics hinder students' creativity and social engagement. During breaks or lunch—times that should foster connection and imaginative play—students often remain isolated, absorbed in their screens instead of forming meaningful friendships and interacting with their peers.

This legislation is not about limiting freedom, but about protecting the developmental needs of our children. As educators and parents, we are entrusted with safeguarding their learning environments and well-being. We must be their advocates when they cannot speak for themselves.