

Submitter:

Cristina Morales Moyano

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2251

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing in support of legislation to limit cellphone use in schools. As a parent of middle schoolers and someone who worked as a Family Liaison in a high school, I've seen firsthand how constant phone access is affecting students' ability to focus, connect, and learn.

In classrooms, I often saw students on their phones during instruction listening to music, watching videos, or simply staring at their screens. Even after finishing a task, many would immediately turn to their phones instead of engaging in reading, reflection, or conversation. Teachers were regularly forced to compete with screens for attention. Some students seemed checked out, physically present but mentally elsewhere.

Beyond academics, I've seen how this behavior is hurting kids socially and emotionally. Students are forgetting how to interact with others, how to collaborate face-to-face, and how to sit with their thoughts. Many are losing the ability to focus deeply or retain information. They are also using phones to record videos during school hours, sometimes in ways that invade privacy or lead to online bullying and conflict.

As parents, we are already struggling to manage phone use at home. We see how it affects our kids' sleep, their mood, their ability to stay present with family. We can't do this alone. We need schools to be allies in creating boundaries that help children grow into balanced, healthy, socially aware people. Limiting cellphone use during the school day is a necessary step, and it sends a strong message that schools are places for connection, learning, and focus.

This is not about taking away technology, it's about teaching responsibility, setting limits, and protecting the space our kids need to grow. I urge you to support this bill and stand with families who are trying to raise children in a world full of distractions.

Sincerely,

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Cristina