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On Behalf Of:	
Committee:	Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB2251

House Bill 2251, which would ban cell phones in classrooms, is at risk of not passing—and that’s a mistake we can’t afford to make. While some argue this should be left to individual districts, the reality is that the cost of inaction is far too high.

I waited over an hour and a half on Microsoft Teams today to testify in support of the bill, but time ran out before I could speak. So instead, I’m submitting this written testimony—and I urge others to do the same.

A mental health expert who did get the chance to testify shared something staggering: students are spending an average of 1.5 hours per day on their phones during school hours—some up to 3 hours. That adds up to *seven full weeks of lost instructional time per year, mostly spent on messaging and social media. It’s unacceptable.

This isn’t just about distraction—it’s about lost learning, declining mental health, and putting educators in an impossible position where they’re forced to compete with addictive technology just to be heard.

We cannot leave this up to a patchwork of inconsistent district policies. We need statewide leadership. Please support House Bill 2251—for the sake of our students, our teachers, and the future of public education in Oregon.