

Danielle Smaha
Yarmouth
LD 1234

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,

My name is Danielle Smaha and I am a resident of Yarmouth with three children in grades 8, 6, and 2. I am submitting testimony today in support of LD 1234, an Act to Ban Cellular Telephones from Public School Classrooms.

I personally have seen the negative impacts on my older children by peers with cell phones in the classroom (as well as the access to school-issued devices) and I believe that schools will be safer and our children will learn more when they cannot access these devices during the school day.

In order to succeed and grow, Maine's kids need to be able to learn in a distraction-free environment. While there are schools and districts that have successfully made this change to have all students store cell phones or other personal electronic devices during the day, all of Maine's youth deserve a better learning environment.

Maine has the opportunity to be a leader in protecting kids. Being able to access a cell phone in school leads to numerous detrimental effects, including being learning distractions, social media misuse, cyberbullying, access to explicit content, and more. School is also an opportunity for kids to grow socially - if you've ever been in a cafeteria where kids have access to cell phones, you'll observe an eerie quiet as they all stare at the screens in front of them instead of interacting with each other.

This technology was created to be addictive. Teachers are forced to try to police their classrooms for kids using their phones, in addition to trying to educate our youth. By removing cell phones from schools, we will reduce some of the burden we are placing on our teachers.

Please vote to remove cell phones and other devices from all Maine schools to ensure that our kids have the room and space to learn and grow.

Thank you.