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LD 170

As a parent of a middle school learner at an RSU #2 school here in Hallowell/Farmingdale, I am in support of LD 170. It is my strong hope that by the time my child enters high school, there will be fewer to no personal electronic devices allowed in schools across our nation.

The research of increased rates of internet addiction among teenagers, who have typically not developed the capacity to resist impulse control, are already prone to avoid social engagement, and are easily distracted, show that "Away for the Day" policies and enforcement are necessary to increase adolescent learning, resilience, and responsibility. Leaving personal electronic device use policies in the hands of individual school leaders who then rely on classroom enforcement (aka teachers) and student-choice (if you are addicted, you are not going to choose to put it away) leaves little room for effective instruction and healthy social interaction during a critical time for a human's brain development.

Even if our specific RSU does not benefit from this pilot program or qualify for the initial budget for restricting use of personal electronic devices during the school day by purchasing security pouches or locked boxes for students to utilize, it will be critical for some schools to go through this process in order for the Maine Education Policy Research Institute to gather intel on whether a program like this could benefit schools throughout the state.