

Testimony in Support of LD 1234
Presented to the Maine Legislature
Hannah Tozier, former Ed-tech & parent of school-aged children

Senator Rafferty, Representative Campbell and members of the Education Committee,

Thank you for considering the reasons I support LD 1234. As the parent of school-aged children and as a former Ed-tech and substitute in the Maine Public School System I have seen firsthand the impact cell phones have on developing minds. I firmly believe that cell phones do not belong at school.

While cell phones serve a purpose, they are not necessary during a day at school. Not only are they not necessary, I've observed how distracting they are to children, and how much they impact students' ability to concentrate on their many important tasks.

School is work. It's our children's job, an important job and a job that is already difficult. Giving them the capability to bring into school (their place of work) a cell phone, a pocket-sized computer with the capacity to instantly send a text to large groups of other children that can say whatever they want in that moment, whether true or false, kind or malicious isn't benefitting our children, or helping support the school's staff. Not only are cell phones a distraction from lessons but they can be socially disruptive and emotionally devastating.

Even for people who do not understand or appreciate the importance of a cell phone ban at school, anyone would be hard-pressed to make a sound argument for how cell phones help our children during the school day.

Children are inundated with screens these days, the last thing they need is one in their pocket while trying to learn.

I urge you to consider voting to pass LD 1234. Thank you for your time and thoughtful review.

Hannah Tozier