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LD 1234

As a middle and high school educator of 13 years, I saw first hand the disruption caused by students' electronic devices. Even with students prohibited from using their phones during class, the pull of checking their messages and social media was ever present. Hallways, cafeterias, and common areas — once hubs for teenage socializing — became silent as students attempted to avoid walking into each other while navigating their way from class to class with their heads buried in their text threads and social media feeds. Even worse, I observed students harassed and bullied over social media by the very peers they shared their classrooms with. With the constant presence of their phones, they could never find a reprieve.

As a parent of two elementary school children, my family has not yet had to personally contend with the distraction of cell phones in schools. It is my sincere hope that as a State we will learn from the recent research on youth mental health and wellbeing and take a proactive stance to protect our kids. I support the passage of LD 1234 - An Act to Ban Cellular Telephones from Public School Classrooms. Please make it easier on students, teachers, and parents by setting a statewide standard banning cell phones in classrooms.