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LD 2052

Testimony in Support of LD 2052
Education & Cultural Affairs Committee

I am writing in strong support of LD 2052, Resolve to Study the Use of Technology in Classrooms and Study Safeguards Related to Its Use.

As a parent who is informed about the developmental and mental health risks of a screen-based childhood, I am asking for your help. At home, I can monitor and limit my children's screen time, set boundaries, and respond when something doesn't feel right. During the school day, however, I have no such ability. Conversations with other parents have only deepened my concern.

As a group, we have raised concerns with our school district administrators and were assured that safeguards are in place and that screen use is appropriate. However, parents, while sitting beside their children on school-issued laptops at home, have discovered apps and tools that the school previously said were not accessible but were, in fact, available.

Our questions about actual screen time, specific applications, and daily classroom practices have gone largely unanswered or dismissed. As a parent, it is deeply alarming to be asked to trust a system that cannot provide clear, accurate information or meaningful opportunities for family input.

This is why I am asking for your help. LD 2052 does not ban technology or dictate local policy. Instead, it creates space for thoughtful, statewide evaluation. Please support LD 2052 so Maine can take a careful look at how classroom technology is affecting our children and ensure that safeguards truly serve their learning, health, and development.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lauren Phillips, Scarborough