

Sarah Sawyer
Scarborough
LD 2052

Committee Members,

I am writing to urge you to pass LD 2052.

As a parent of two children, I am increasingly concerned about the role and safety of educational technology in our schools. We have repeatedly been assured that school-issued devices include strong protections and content filters. However, in practice, these safeguards are proving inadequate.

Students are finding ways to bypass firewalls and filters—often with ease. This includes using built-in tools, alternate search engines, browser features, or simple workarounds shared among peers. Many of these methods require little technical knowledge, yet they allow students to access content and tools that were never intended for classroom use.

The reality is that children are far more adept at navigating technology than the systems designed to restrict it. When protections rely primarily on software filters, enforcement becomes a game of catch-up, placing an unrealistic burden on teachers and staff while exposing students to unnecessary risks.

This gap between what we are told is “protected” and what is actually happening in classrooms raises serious concerns about student safety, data privacy, attention, and learning. It underscores the need for clearer oversight, more transparent reporting, and policies that do not rely solely on technical barriers that children can easily circumvent.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and for considering policies that better align with the realities facing students, educators, and families.

Thank you, Sarah Sawyer

Mom of 2, Scarborough, ME