Chairman, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.
My name is Katie Longhauser. I am a former nurse, parent, and founder of The Screen Guardians — a program dedicated to educating and protecting children and communities in today's digital world. My mission is helping kids thrive in a technology-saturated environment.

Over the past decade, classroom screen use has increased dramatically. Yet during that same time:

- National reading scores have declined, with 9- and 13-year-olds showing some of the steepest drops in decades.

- Research suggests that, on average, students using tablets in "all or most of all" of their classes have reading scores that are the equivalent of a full grade lower on assessments than students who never use tablets in their classrooms.

- Kansas college readiness benchmarks have fallen over 44% across core subjects.

- Teens now average more than 7 hours per day of recreational screen use outside of school.

- Nearly half of teens report being online "almost constantly."

Research in cognitive science consistently shows that students comprehend more deeply when reading from print, retain more when handwriting notes, and sustain attention better without constant digital stimulation.

Meanwhile, many digital platforms used in schools are built using persuasive design — engineered to capture attention and increase engagement. That design works. But it does not always strengthen learning.

Our children do not need to learn on screens all day through EdTech platforms.

Children need tech education. Return to more analog learning and learn about the power of technology — how algorithms shape behavior, how persuasive design works, and how to protect their privacy and attention.

SB 350 establishes developmentally appropriate guardrails:

- No screens in K–5 instruction to protect foundational literacy and attention.
- Shared, teacher-supervised use in middle school.
- Responsible one-to-one introduction in high school with parental permission.

It also ensures that classroom technology is independently vetted for safety, effectiveness, and legal compliance.

Technology is not going away. But education must prioritize developing brains over digital consumption.

SB 350 protects learning, privacy, and children.
I respectfully urge your support.

Thank you,
Katie Longhauser