



**Opponent Testimony on HB 2641  
For the House Education Committee  
February 14, 2024  
Judith Deedy  
On behalf of Game On for Kansas Schools**

Chair Thomas, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to HB 2641 on behalf of Game On for Kansas Schools, a grassroots public education advocacy organization. This bill improperly usurps the role of local boards of education and parents.

As parents and community members, we are well aware of the challenges cell phones present both in and out of school. We support local teachers, administrators and local school boards in addressing these issues. However, we believe that statewide legislation is inappropriate. The Kansas legislature has a large number of roles and responsibilities, but managing cell phone use in schools seems to go beyond those roles. Instead, the legislature should let the people with more direct responsibility for the daily operations of our schools address this issue. This bill implicitly recognizes the role of local boards in this arena, but goes on to dictate exactly what their policies should do. The policy in this bill could be deemed extreme even by people who support significant restrictions on cell phone use. For example, the prohibition of use even during free time or passing periods may be viewed as going too far. Parents who think their schools haven't gone far enough should be contacting their local teachers, administrators and school board members to address those issues at the local level.

Thank you for your consideration of the issues with HB 2641.