

Jose Juarez
Turner High School
2211 South 55th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66106
jfjuarez314@gmail.com
(913) 424-4559

HB 2421 - Requiring school districts to prohibit the use of personal electronic communication devices during school hours, prohibiting any employee of a school district from using social media to directly communicate with any student for official school purposes, and requiring school districts to report on the amount of screen time that certain students experience during a typical school day.

Neutral - In-person, Oral Presentation
February 6, 2025

Thank you, Chairwoman and members of the committee. My name is Jose Juarez, and I am part of the group representing Turner High School. After reviewing this bill, there is a primary issue: the labor and funding required for schools to implement it. In theory, it'd work; however, in practice, most schools would likely choose phone pouches, as they are convenient and easier to use, but that price can be significant for the larger schools with several hundred students. Which will use funding that can be used for other things like the Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, Science Technology, Education, Mathematics (STEM) courses, or even sports—areas for funding that most taxpayers would prefer. There are also the worries of what happens when a student claims a staff member broke their phone or lost it. The school would have to replace these and use funds for repairs—again, it'd be taking taxpayer dollars. The size of some schools in the east would be immense; some schools would need to hold almost a thousand students' phones; one would have to imagine where the staff would carry that many phones. For the schools choosing to buy pouches, the price tag would rise immensely, especially for schools like Wichita East, holding almost 2,500 students; the cost of that would be crazy! The scale of labor should also be looked at; teachers need to worry about personal devices like this, which would cost valuable minutes from instructional time.

Thank you, I will stand for questions.