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Written Testimony For House Bill 2641

We are writing today in support of House Bill no 2641 requiring districts to have all-day phone-free school policies. As school counselors with over 16 years of combined experience, we have seen first-hand policy variations and the impact on student learning. Our middle school implemented classroom restrictions of cell phones this year and we have witnessed the positive impact on our student both socially and academically.

In addition, as parents of teens in KS public high schools, we support phone-free school policies as we have witnessed first-hand with our own children the lack of social interaction, cheating and inability to focus on learning and more importantly retention of information. On any given day, our high school children are on their phones on average of 5 hours during the school day.

We understand the need for students to be tech savvy in order to navigate future work force demands but do not feel that cell phones assist students in building skills or knowledge to positively impact their future. Use of social media outside a school setting already impacts them negatively throughout their school day. A multitude of studies have continually connected social media use by young adults to increased anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation and leave many of our kids feeling less connected to each other and their community than ever.

Kids today are counting on the adults who make decisions to curtail the harmful effects of social media through restrictions and education on responsible use outside a school setting.

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