

April 22, 2025

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Re: **Testimony in Support of H 5598**

Dear Members of the Education Committee,

Rhode Island has an opportunity to lead the way in protecting classroom focus and student development by passing H 5598. Other states — like California, Florida, and Minnesota — have already taken this step. Let's be next.

Phones are harming learning, undermining attention, and fueling classroom conflict. The evidence is clear and compelling.

This bill is a strong foundation, and I encourage the committee to go further by making the restriction bell-to-bell.

Our students and communities deserve distraction-free schools. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Jared L. Watkins  
Barrington, RI