

Written Testimony in Support of H 5598

April 23, 2025

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

As a parent in the Barrington public school system, I strongly support H 5598. The academic cost of allowing unrestricted phone access in our schools is simply too high. Students are struggling to focus, and teachers are competing with screens for attention.

A 2020 meta-analysis of 41 studies confirms what many educators already know: phone use in classrooms significantly lowers academic performance (Kates, Wu, & Coryn, *Educational Psychology Review*). It's time to prioritize learning and make our classrooms distraction-free zones.

Our students deserve distraction-free schools. Please strengthen H 5598 by including a bell-to-bell prohibition and pass the bill.

Sincerely,
Jessica Hay
Barrington, RI