

Lisa Cataldi

From: Jessica Olingy <jolingy18@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 11:09 AM
To: House Education Committee
Cc: Rep. Boylan, Jennifer; Rep. Knight, Jason; Sen. Lauria, Pamela J.
Subject: Written Testimony in Support of H 5598

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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