

Written Testimony in Support of H 5598

April 21, 2025

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

I'm a Barrington parent writing in strong support of H 5598. I care deeply about the quality of education and the school environment we provide our kids. H 5598 is a much-needed, common sense, evidence-based response to the growing distraction of personal devices during the school day. As phones have become ever-present in students' lives, they've also started to erode the school day—leading to less attention in class and fewer real-life social interactions.

When students are on their phones, they aren't connecting with peers, participating in class, or developing the skills they'll need in adulthood. We must give them a break from the digital noise.

Please support and strengthen H 5598 with a bell-to-bell restriction so schools can confidently enforce a healthy learning environment.

Sincerely,
Jill Blankenhorn
Barrington, RI