

**Lisa Cataldi**

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**From:** sabrina strelitz <sstrelitz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2025 9:54 PM  
**To:** House Education Committee  
**Subject:** testimony against house bill H 6107

Hello,

I am writing today in regards to house bill H 6107 regarding appropriating funds for implementing a virtual reality stem program in Rhode Island schools.

There is an abundance of research to show that the disbursement of screens and ed-tech across public education have largely been a failure. Test scores have plummeted since screens and ed-tech were introduced into our schools.

The UNESCO report from 2023, found that screen use in schools has actually increased the disparity in performance among struggling students and students from lower socio-economic levels. Below are some key findings: <https://gem-report-2023.unesco.org>

- **There is little robust evidence on digital technology's added value in education.** Technology evolves faster than it is possible to evaluate it: Education technology products change every 36 months, on average. Most evidence comes from the richest countries. In the United Kingdom, 7% of education technology companies had conducted randomized controlled trials, and 12% had used third-party certification. A survey of teachers and administrators in 17 US states showed that only 11% requested peer-reviewed evidence prior to adoption.
- **A lot of the evidence comes from those trying to sell it.** Pearson funded its own studies, contesting independent analysis that showed its products had no impact.

Why would we continue to spend more money on these unproven and experimental programs?? We should spend this money on tactile materials and experiences for our students in the real world, and on staffing and experienced teachers.

Additionally, virtual reality platforms such as Facebook's "Horizon Worlds" face increasing amounts of litigation because of inappropriate content children come across as well as data privacy issues. Can you ensure this program, which you don't even name in the bill, is safe, secure and backed by thorough independent research??

<https://fairplayforkids.org/complaint-against-meta-filed-at-ftc-alleging-widespread-horizon-worlds-child-privacy-violations/>

Until priorities shift away from spending on needless ed-tech programs, and back to traditional student centered teaching methods that emphasize connection, we will continue to fail the students in our state.

thank you  
Sabrina Weiss  
East Greenwich Resident