

Hello legislators, my name is Alex Young-Springer and I go to Hunt Middle School and I am here to talk about the bill H.54 which proposes a series of amendments to ban cellphones in public schools. I know that this is a very complex issue that has many different views to it, but I think that you should not be able to use your phone in school since I have had personal experience of seeing phones being a huge distraction and issue in my school. One example of my personal experience is that I have seen kids use their phones to film social media challenges that are usually distracting and harmful. School should never be a place where it is appropriate to film videos for social media and should be a place for focused learning.

Students should be able to have their phones in their locker however since a lot of students walk to get home after school. This should provide them with a good communication source that they can use for personal safety while walking home from school. This way the parent or guardian of that student can safely know where the student is and if they need help for whatever reason. I do however support students having a phone if it is a confirmed need for safety or learning.

As for the questions asked by the committee, The current cell phone practice at my school is that students should not have their cell phones out at all during the school day and can keep them in their locker. If a student is found with their cell phone during the day, it will be taken and the parent will

be called if it is a repeated issue. The problem with this policy is that this rule of a cell phone being found on a student being taken away during the school day is not enforced enough to make it effective so students usually use their cell phones during the school day without much worry which is unfortunate. For the next question which is "Do you know what the current cell phone practice at the high school you will go to next year is." The current practice is that students can have their phones on them during the school day and you are able to use them during lunch, but you can not use them during class or there will be a consequence. I do not personally know if these rules are followed or enforced but I know they do loosen up from our middle school rules.

The last and final question is "What is your position on a state-wide policy of no phones during the school day?" I do partially support this statement because I believe that phones should be banned in middle school during the school day and kept in lockers. However I think that in high school it is ok to have your phone on you during the school day since in high school, students might use their phones for some better purposes like studying. I think that If a student in high school does repeatedly use their phone in class then their parent or guardian should be contacted so they are aware of this problem and the students should lose the privilege to have their phone on you in class.

