

I want to thank you for reading my letter which supports the passing of HB1132.

Social media has completely changed the school environment effectively merging school with a child's home environment. A typical child comes home, possibly takes a nap, then jumps on their phone to scroll through snapchat and TikTok.

This nightly consumption of images and videos carry into school resulting in unexpected and expected confrontations depending on what the night before served up. Physical encounters are fed to social media like a conk on a conveyer belt increasing the chances of physical confrontations at school, because they are guaranteed a live audience for the instant, and for at the very least, the next few days. This time seems like an eternity to a child. On top of being the main attraction, consider the prospect of not being able to defend yourself, because you feared punishment. This fear only applies to the students such as those who have military aspirations, play sports and have future goals. The students that do care are at a disadvantage, as of now, because the students that do not care know that certain kids will simply not fight back. When a child is attacked, then displayed on social media, their self esteem takes an enormous hit. This hit can very quickly lead to substance abuse, self-harm and suicide. When a student knows that they can defend themselves, their self-esteem can be cushioned and their trajectory can be that of hope and self-belief that they can take up for themselves.