

Hello, my name is Catherine Holden and I am a parent of three elementary and middle aged school children living in Baltimore county. I am seeing first hand the detrimental effects of not having state wide legislation mandating all school districts have bell to bell prohibition of personal devices with mandated storage. Teachers are left to regulate kids use of phones. I consistently receive letters from the middle school indicating the ongoing challenge the presence of smart devices create. Energy, time and resource is wasted managing this daily. As a healthcare provider I have read the research and the evidence is abundant and clear: the presence of smart personal devices in schools is harming our children. Maryland is failing our kids and lagging behind many other states who have already enacted such legislation. Our kids deserve better leadership.

Thank you Delegate Boafo and co sponsors Delegate Wolek, Kaufman, Moreno, Schindler, Solomon and Taylor for championing this very important bill. I understand that Delegate Boafo intends to amend HB0525 to remove exceptions for emergency use and add language to ensure devices are inaccessible during the instructional day. Thank you . These are key elements to producing a strong and effective bill. We need to protect and support our kids and not undermine their growth and education.