

I am the mother of a kindergartener in Baltimore County, and I thank Delegate Boafu and co-sponsors for championing this important bill.

Current research is clear and consistent: even the mere presence of a smartphone—even when it is not being used—reduces attention, working memory, and performance on cognitive tasks. Allowing phones in classrooms undermines learning, increases distraction, and makes it harder for teachers to do their jobs. Our children deserve learning environments that support focus, engagement, and healthy development. Phones do not belong in schools during the instructional day, and we also know that teachers, parents in phone-free schools, school resource officers, and medical and scientific experts support a full-day phone ban.

I understand that Delegate Boafu intends to amend HB0525 to remove exceptions for emergency use and add language to ensure devices are inaccessible during the instructional day. I support this amendment.