

2/16/2026

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am a parent of two children in Howard County, MD. I am writing for a favorable outcome for HB0525 Student Electronic Communication Device Use Policy. I understand that Delegate Bofo intends to amend HB0525 to remove exceptions for emergency use and add language to ensure devices are inaccessible during the instructional day.

I am grateful to Delegate Bofo and the co-sponsors Wolek, Kaufman, Moreno, Schindler, Solomon, and Taylor for submitting this bill.

I am deeply concerned about the amount of technology that has taken over the classroom settings over the last decade and in recent years. Even simple activities like “brain-breaks” to help get kids up and moving in the class, has turned into kids staring at a video screen. That is one example of a small, yet unnecessary use of technology in the classroom. It is possible to do brain-breaks with simply the same audio but without the video paired with it. There are many other times tablets and technology are unnecessarily used in the classroom for all ages of kids. Technology is negatively affecting the way our children’s brains process information as well as their social skills.

It is known that fast paced screen time affects dopamine responses, children’s attention spans, and ability to learn. It is also known that improper use of technology can prevent critical thinking skills. As children grow up, it can be linked to bully, depression, and suicide.

This is a brewing crisis that is only slowly being recognized now. Maryland needs to take a stronger stance with electronic communication device usage. I hope that the state of Maryland can continue to help lead the transition to a low-technology learning environment.

There also needs to be a larger marketing campaign for educational awareness so that parents and teachers understand the full extent of how technology and cell phone usage affects kids at a young age. We have the ability to start to make more preventative changes starting with when babies are born and continuing throughout the kids' young adult life.

Please vote for a favorable outcome and start the stepping stone in the right direction for our children.

Kimya Davani, VMD