



February 18, 2025

Dear Committee:

As a dedicated educator with 25 years of experience, I strongly urge this committee to consider the critical importance of balanced technology policies in our schools. While we embrace technology's role in education, we're witnessing firsthand how unrestricted device use is disrupting our learning environments. Daily, we face challenges with social media-driven conflicts, cyberbullying, and digital distractions that significantly impact student wellbeing and academic success.

The evidence is clear and concerning: parents regularly come to us with disturbing social media posts, cyber threats, and instances of digital bullying. Despite our best efforts to manage these issues, the current lack of comprehensive policies leaves our schools struggling to balance educational technology use with student safety. Many schools, including my own, have attempted to implement phone restrictions, but we need systematic support to make these policies effective. This morning, a student was on her phone as she walked down the hallway. The administrator asked her to put her phone away, and then the student gave her a disdainful look, being defiant and continuing to walk. One can look at it as an act of defiance, but another perspective is that the student is dependent on the phone when she is anxious. The administrator could demand the phone, risking losing the relationship, or she can let it go and follow up with her later. We need to look at schools similarly to how companies view phones. There are times and places to check your phone, but the need to be on your phone cannot impact your work. For our kids, it can't impact their education.

By supporting this bill, you will empower schools to create environments where students can truly focus on learning while developing healthy digital habits. This isn't about eliminating technology—it's about teaching responsible use through clear, consistent guidelines. We can address legitimate concerns about safety and parent communication through thoughtful policy design, ultimately creating a better learning environment for all students.

The proposed July 1, 2026 deadline gives schools appropriate time to develop and implement these crucial policies. We need your support to protect our students while preparing them for a digital future. The time to act is now.

Thank you.

Alex Magaña
Executive Principal



LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

Testimony for House Education Committee, HB25-1135

1 message

Deborah Vink <debvink@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 18, 2025 at 3:41 PM

To: "committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov" <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

TO: House Education Committee Chair Rep. Meghan Lukens, Committee Vice Chair Rep. Matthew Martinez, Rep. Jennifer Bacon, Rep. Mary Bradfield, Rep. Jarvis Caldwell, Rep. Anthony Hartsook, Rep. Lori Garcia Sander, Rep. Lindsay Gilchrist, Rep. Eliza Hamrick, Rep. Dusty Johnson, Rep. Jacque Phillips, Rep. Lesley Smith, and Rep. Tammy Story

February 10, 2025: **HB25- 1135 Communication Devices in Schools SUPPORT**

Dear Members of the House Education Committee:

In making this testimony, I am a volunteer lobbyist representing the League of Women Voters of Colorado (LWVCO) regarding **HB25-1135 Communication Devices in Schools**. LWVCO is a nonpartisan organization that encourages active participation in government. The Colorado League has approximately 1900 members in 18 local Leagues spanning the state. LWVCO members urge you to vote in SUPPORT of HB25-1135 Communication Devices in Schools.

LWVCO recognizes that the use of cell phones and other communication devices has profoundly affected our society and young people, in particular. It is in all our interests to consider how best to handle the presence of these devices within schools and classrooms to ensure the **health, safety and academic success** of students, all of which are all priorities for the League of Women Voters of Colorado.

News and professional education and health organizations have widely reported that cell phone use can be distracting and even psychologically damaging for young people. HB25-1135 addresses the need for schools and school districts to confront the best way to handle this issue in their locality. Teachers, students, parents and the public need to know that their schools are taking this serious concern into account.

The proposed legislation adequately provides for exceptional circumstances to be considered, if a policy limits devices. Importantly, this bill also provides that the communication device policy be made public and that there be training for teachers in how best to implement the policy as developed.

The League of Women Voters of Colorado urges you to vote **YES** on **HB25-1135 Communication Devices in Schools**

Sincerely,

Debby Vink

League of Women Voters of Colorado

1410 Grant Street, Suite B-204

Denver, CO 80203

303-435-7687