

Jake Malloy – Testimony for SB 158

In my junior year of high school, three years ago I completed deleted all my social media platforms and began living a significantly more fulfilling life. Now that I am in college, I maintain a light presence as a means to keep in contact with some of my peers. I deleted all of my social media in high school because I didn't like what it was doing to me, and to my community. In class, students were constantly checking the buzz of their phones when they felt it in their pocket, or leaving it face up on their desk for when it lit up so they could immediately see what the notification was. Students would wear airpods during class, blatantly tuning out the teacher. Not only were students disrespecting their instructor, but they were significantly inhibiting their own ability to learn.

I could not stand when even outside of the classroom, during a lunch or a free time my friends would be enthralled with their screens, utterly captivated by them. After I deleted all of my social media, and I would sit outside at lunch admiring the world, appreciating life significantly more so than my peers addicted to their screens. There was a draw at any given moment in the day to be on a screen.

I am proud to be witnessing such change coming with SB 158 and strongly urge 1 vital amendment be made: 1) ensure devices are safely stored away all day, from bell to bell. I witnessed the addictive pull of devices just being on the floor in backpacks that distracted my friends from classwork. Then, I believe this bill will not only create better learners more equipped to handle the ever-changing society as we know it, but it will foster students who thrive and bring about success for themselves and those around them. The increased social interaction and comradery will be visible day one across all Ohio schools and will propel life-long change in the way we interact with each other.