

Dear Representatives,

I am Ian Keller, secretary of the Mandan Middle School Student Council, testifying for House Bill 1160. House Bill 1160 would prohibit the usage of phones during instructional time or class time throughout the school day. Phones in school are a significant distraction for many students throughout the day. These distractions may affect many students by having worse grades and behavioral changes that would make doing school work more difficult. I believe that removing the usage of phones during instructional time throughout the school day will benefit students throughout the state in many ways. These reasons are why I think that House Bill 1160 should pass.

Every day, I see students on their phones in class while teachers are instructing classes on subjects, which causes them to be distracted from learning about the subject, leading to worse grades. I even see some of my closest friends on their phones during classes and getting distracted rather than paying attention and understanding the curriculum, leading them to get bad grades. Having phones in school may also influence how students behave in class around others because of social media platforms like Snapchat, Facebook, and TikTok. These behaviors influenced by phones can lead to students receiving punishments such as detention. All of these factors decrease student productivity throughout the day and school year for students throughout the state.

Bad grades and behavioral issues are just some of the problems that students face from using phones during school that can be solved by House Bill 1160 by eliminating the usage of phones throughout schools. This bill will help students stay focused on their schoolwork because they won't have their phones to distract them, helping them get better grades in school. Additionally, prohibiting the usage of phones will limit bad influences on students, helping

change their behavior for the better. These changes for the school system in North Dakota will benefit all schools around the state by increasing focus and changing poor behaviors. These reasons are why I ask you to give House Bill 1160 a due pass so that schools and their students may benefit across North Dakota.

Thank you for hearing my testimony and considering my judgment on House Bill 1160.

Secretary Ian Keller of the Mandan Middle School Student Council