

Good Morning Chairman Heinert and the legislative assembly,

I am Addyson Rademacher-Nyame on behalf of the Mandan Middle School Student Council and Superintendent Basellers Student Cabinet. I would like to begin by thanking Governor Armstrong and his office for the opportunity to speak here today in favor of House Bill 1160. This bill would require that there be no cellular devices during instructional sessions. Which I support, school is a place to gain an education. Cell phone usage is a significant distraction in the classroom for the reason that it shortens attention spans, encourages negative behaviors, and is a source of cheating. If this bill passes many schools could flourish, it will promote in-person conversations, help engage learning, and enhance social interactions. Other than the educational standpoint of going to school, school should be viewed as a place where you can create friendships and interact with peers, and I believe that without cellular devices this would encourage these valuable interactions. To add, I would like to mention how there would be a decrease in the use of social media among students. I can say it's not just us youth who are addicted to social media, it's our entire society. But by eliminating a consecutive seven hours without using social media, and having your education be your primary focus, it would be a great start to building healthy habits. With that said, as someone who will be directly affected by the outcome of this bill; I would ask you to vote to pass this bill; please consider this affects not only my generation but all of those that will follow.

Thank you and I stand for questions.