

**TESTIMONY OF
DARIN ANDERSON, DIVISION DIRECTOR OF STATE RADIO
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES – DIVISION OF STATE RADIO
BEFORE THE
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
26 MARCH 2025
IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1160**

Good Morning Chairman Beard and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this important matter today. For the record my name is Darin Anderson, Division Director of State Radio, within the Department of Emergency Services.

I am here to testify today in support of HB 1160 and the impacts of cell phones in schools when emergency situations arise. This can also have impacts on Emergency Communications Centers or Emergency Dispatch Centers. In the event of a large-scale emergency situation students, faculty, and parents all start using cellular devices to call 9-1-1. Students may also start calling parents and the parents initiate the 9-1-1 call.

All those cellular devices will begin to saturate the cellular infrastructure in that area. Those students, faculty, and parents will start to see “call failed” messages or “other call related issues”. This will also impact those needing to speak with 9-1-1 Public Safety Telecommunicators or dispatchers.

The same saturation happens within an Emergency Communications Center or Dispatch Center. There are a set number of 9-1-1 lines in each center. When they become over saturated those 9-1-1 calls roll or forward to the center’s administrative lines. If those calls go unanswered, the calls abandon to another emergency communications center entirely.

When multiple callers initiate the 9-1-1 calls, misinformation can be reported to emergency call takers. This misinformation can lead to incorrect threat assessments and emergency response planning. This can also happen when parents call 9-1-1 because their child called them to report the event. This high volume of calls from various callers and locations impacts the information gathering, processing, and response of public safety agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today and stand ready for any questions you may have.