



1 Testimony for bill 1160 Cell Phones in Schools

2 Chairman Heinert and Members of the Committee – the concept of cell phones in schools is
3 a controversial one - it is one my members don't agree upon. It is one that is handled
4 differently in every community. It is one that communities don't agree upon. Mandan
5 parents don't feel the same as Bismarck parents. Rugby parents don't feel the same as Minot
6 parents.

7 We also know that there is data to show that the distractions during instructional time may
8 be causing issues – other countries are handling it in their own ways.

9 Is the answer to just ban them during instructional time? I'm not sure.

10 The field isn't sure. I'm not sure that law makers are the experts either. I'm not sure any of
11 us are.

12 I've talked to several board members who have said that they believe that the school boards
13 should be listening to their communities and handling this locally.

14 One thing I do think is important is district consistency but that is handled at the local level.
15 This is worth more conversation. If, however, this is the intent of the legislature, I did offer
16 to you some amendments to ensure that a bill going this route is workable at the school level.
17 There must be exceptions for students with disabilities, who need them as a learning tool,
18 with medical needs, and when there are school based exceptions approved by the board. It's
19 also important to take a look at the adjustments to the definitions I provided to
20 Representative Jonas ensuring tablets and laptops and learning devices provided by the
21 school are allowable.

22 Thank you for your consideration and for in larger part your generous consideration about
23 the well being of our students. I know this bill comes from a good place. I know we all have
24 the best interest of our students in mind.