

I am writing to **strongly oppose SB 2300** which would mandate the secure storage of students' personal electronic devices during the school day. As a local educator of nearly twenty years, and even more importantly, a concerned parent of an elementary school student here in Bismarck, I believe this bill puts our children at unnecessary risk, and I urge you to vote **DO NOT PASS**.

While I understand the intent of this bill may be to reduce distractions and maintain order in the classroom, there are far more pressing safety concerns that make access to personal electronic devices, particularly cell phones, a critical tool in the event of emergencies.

As we have seen in recent years, the tragic rise of school shootings and other emergencies necessitates immediate communication between students, parents, and law enforcement. In these situations, a student's ability to call for help or contact a loved one is invaluable and could be lifesaving. It is crucial that students have their phones on hand during the school day to ensure they can access assistance quickly if they find themselves in a dangerous or emergency situation.

In addition to safety concerns, limiting students' access to their phones may cause unnecessary anxiety. Parents rely on their children's ability to reach them at a moment's notice, especially given the unpredictable nature of the world we live in today. Our children should not have to face the added stress of wondering whether they will be able to communicate with their parents or receive important information in an emergency.

I recognize the need to create policies that promote a positive learning environment and minimize distractions. However, this bill fails to address the far more significant issue of student safety. Instead of mandating that electronic devices be stored away, I urge you to explore policies that balance both the need for security and the right of students to have access to their phones during the school day.

Please, do not pass SB 2300. The safety of our children must be the top priority, and in today's world, that includes ensuring they have the tools they need to stay connected in times of crisis.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Erin Price  
Bismarck, ND