

Greetings Committee Chair and Committee members.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Angel Lopez and I attest my biometric information is not for sale. I am here in opposition to the Student Device Privacy Bill.

The language within this legislation has not changed for three years. As a product of the Providence School system with 12 months experience working knee deep in workforce development, House bill 5176 as written will create barriers to education and barriers to career pathways.

Why? Because 2 out of the 3 limited circumstances as they are described in the bill are too vague. The language in this bill includes a student's personal device within the limited circumstances, which is why I advocate for the removal of personal devices or verbiage that clearly defines the limits. Circumstance 1 on line 10 of page two states; if a student initiates the activation of the device for educational purposes. Excluding Gaming and socializing online, how many online activities are not considered educational? If this law were active today, it would allow a public school, state college, or any state credentialed training program to turn on the camera, microphone, and geo-location data of a student's personal device for reading or watching a video about Martin Luther King, Malcome X, Fred Hampton, or Pedro Albizu Campos. Also, the entire conversation with their friends about what was read or watched would also be recorded by the third party or educational institution.

If I look back at the past 5 years of my life, I have been highly misunderstood regardless of the positive impact I create. I will now refer to circumstance #3 on line 13 of page 2. The personal device of a student may be activated for the purpose of responding to a suspected imminent threat to life or safety. Does the third party or educational institution understand who I am, my values, my morals, my abilities. Do the educational institutions in this state understand most students who attend ProvSchools?

We all know mistakes can happen, so if a student's device is activated due to circumstance #3 , it will take up to 6 days for the required notification to reach a parent. That is a long time from my perspective. Also, activities and procedures during holiday and summer breaks continue to remain unmentioned in House bill 5176. How will a parent feel if they had to prevent their own child from learning and exploring the history of their own people in order to avoid the school from activating the personal device purchased by the parent. When that same student turns 18, the school is required to notify the student. Will the educational institution notify a student who will be prepared and required to defend their own intellect or would the third party or school prefer to save time and money by omitting to send the required notification to further enable surveillance abuse.

Please hold this bill. It is February 11, 2025. You all have 5 months to adjust the verbiage of this legislation so that it places students and parents first. Don't waste another year...when students and their parents benefit the entire state benefits.

Thank you,

Angel Lopez
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