

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To establish a grant program to support restricting the use of cellular phones and other personal electronic devices at eligible schools during instructional time.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. GALLEGO introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To establish a grant program to support restricting the use of cellular phones and other personal electronic devices at eligible schools during instructional time.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the Supporting Focus in
5 Schools Act.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) ESEA TERMS.—The “elementary school”
9 and “secondary school” have the meanings given the

1 terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Sec-
2 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

3 (2) ELIGIBLE SCHOOL.—The term “eligible
4 school” means an elementary school or secondary
5 school that—

6 (A) receives funds under part A of title I
7 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
8 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.); and

9 (B) has a personal electronic device policy
10 as described in section 3(b).

11 (3) PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
13 graph (B), the term “personal electronic de-
14 vice”, when used with respect to a device pos-
15 sessed or used by a student, includes a laptop
16 or desktop computer, a tablet, a smartphone,
17 smartwatch, or other cellular phone, or another
18 similar device.

19 (B) EXCEPTION.—The term “personal
20 electronic device” does not include a laptop or
21 tablet that—

22 (i) a student is authorized by the
23 school of the student to use during school
24 hours;

1 (ii) is used by such student only for
2 instructional purposes; and
3 (iii) is restricted from accessing social
4 media platforms, personal email, personal
5 messaging applications, texting services,
6 and other non-academic applications dur-
7 ing school hours.

8 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
9 the Secretary of Education.

10 **SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
12 grant program through which the Secretary shall award
13 grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible schools to enable
14 those eligible schools to carry out activities described in
15 subsection (d) that support a school ban on personal elec-
16 tronic devices in accordance with a policy described in sub-
17 section (c).

18 (b) APPLICATION.—An eligible school desiring to re-
19 ceive a grant under this Act shall submit an application
20 to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and con-
21 taining such information as the Secretary may reasonably
22 require, including the eligible school’s personal electronic
23 device policy described in subsection (c).

24 (c) PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY RE-
25 QUIRED.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this Act,

1 an eligible school shall be required to have in effect a pol-
2 icy that prohibits student use of personal electronic devices
3 in the school during school instruction hours. Such policy
4 shall permit exceptions, as approved by a school adminis-
5 trator—

6 (1) for students with health conditions that re-
7 quire the use of a mobile phone or other personal
8 electronic device as part of a treatment or moni-
9 toring plan;

10 (2) for students with disabilities or special
11 needs for whom access to a mobile phone or other
12 personal electronic device is—

13 (A) documented as necessary in an individ-
14 ualized education program; or

15 (B) included as part of services or accom-
16 modations provided to the student pursuant to
17 section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
18 (29 U.S.C. 794) (commonly referred to as a
19 “Section 504 plan”); and

20 (3) for an emergency.

21 (d) USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible school that re-
22 ceives a grant under this Act shall use grant funds to
23 carry out 1 or more of the following activities:

24 (1) Purchase equipment that will support the
25 personal electronic device policy of the school, such

1 as phone lockers, phone pouches, or similar storage
2 devices or equipment.

3 (2) Provide professional development and train-
4 ing to teachers and school staff about how to sup-
5 port the school's personal electronic device policy.

6 **SEC. 4. REPORTING.**

7 Not later than 1 year after receiving a grant under
8 this Act, an eligible school shall submit a report to the
9 Secretary that contains information about the effect of the
10 activities carried out using grant funds under this Act,
11 including any effect on academic outcomes at the eligible
12 school.