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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To direct the Surgeon General to conduct a study regarding the use of mobile devices in elementary and secondary schools, and to establish a pilot program of awarding grants to enable certain schools to create a school environment free of mobile devices.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. WESTERMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To direct the Surgeon General to conduct a study regarding the use of mobile devices in elementary and secondary schools, and to establish a pilot program of awarding grants to enable certain schools to create a school environment free of mobile devices.

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 “Focus on Learning  
5       Act”.

1   **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2       In this Act:

3           (1) **ESEA TERMS.**—The terms “child with a  
4       disability”, “elementary school”, “English learner”,  
5       “local educational agency”, and “secondary school”  
6       have the meaning given those terms in section 8101  
7       of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
8       1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

9           (2) **MOBILE DEVICE.**—The term “mobile de-  
10      vice” means any personal mobile telephone or other  
11      portable electronic communication device with which  
12      a user engages in a call or writes or sends a message  
13      or any device in which the user plays a game or  
14      watches a video, except that such term does not in-  
15      clude school-issued devices.

16          (3) **SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT FREE OF MOBILE**  
17      **DEVICES.**—The term “school environment free of  
18      mobile devices” means an elementary school or sec-  
19      ondary school in which mobile devices of students  
20      are kept in a secure container that is controlled by  
21      a school administrator.

22          (4) **SCHOOL HOURS.**—The term “school hours”  
23      means regular school hours for instruction, including  
24      lunch periods, free periods on school grounds, and  
25      time between classroom instruction.

1 **SEC. 3. STUDY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the  
3 date of enactment of this Act, the Surgeon General, in  
4 consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human  
5 Services, shall complete a study regarding the use of mo-  
6 bile devices in elementary schools and secondary schools  
7 nationwide, including—

8 (1) the impact of such use on—

9 (A) student learning and academic achieve-  
10 ment;

11 (B) student educational outcomes and en-  
12 gagement;

13 (C) student mental health;

14 (D) classroom instruction; and

15 (E) school climate and student behavior;  
16 and

17 (2) an analysis of data collected from partici-  
18 pating schools in the pilot program under section 4.

19 (b) REPORT.—The Surgeon General, in consultation  
20 with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall  
21 submit a report to Congress containing the results of the  
22 study conducted under subsection (a), and shall make  
23 such report publicly available.

24 **SEC. 4. PILOT PROGRAM.**

25 (a) PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—The Secretary of  
26 Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Health

1 and Human Services, shall establish a pilot program,  
2 through which the Secretary of Education, in consultation  
3 with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall  
4 award grants to local educational agencies to enable par-  
5 ticipating schools served by such agencies (referred to in  
6 this section as “participating schools”) to purchase secure  
7 containers and install lockers in order to create a school  
8 environment free of mobile devices.

9 (b) APPLICATION.—A local educational agency desir-  
10 ing to participate in the program under this section shall  
11 submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in  
12 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-  
13 retary may reasonably require, including—

14 (1) an assurance that such local educational  
15 agency will identify and select participating schools  
16 in a manner that engages the students, parents,  
17 educators, principal, school leaders, and specialized  
18 instructional support personnel, of such schools;

19 (2) an assurance that each participating school  
20 will have a communication system (which may be  
21 mobile devices) allowing teachers, administrators,  
22 and staff to communicate with each other and with  
23 local emergency responders;

1           (3) an assurance that each participating school  
2           will have a clear process for students to be able to  
3           contact their parents;

4           (4) the policy of each participating school on  
5           mobile device use during school hours as of the date  
6           of the application; and

7           (5) a description of what each participating  
8           school's new policy on mobile device use during  
9           school hours will be upon beginning participation in  
10          the pilot program under this section.

11         (c) SELECTION.—The Secretary of Education, in con-  
12         sultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-  
13         ices, shall select local educational agency applicants for  
14         participation in the pilot program based on the Secretary  
15         of Education's determination that the applicant's partici-  
16         pation will likely yield helpful information relevant to test-  
17         ing a school environment free of mobile devices.

18         (d) EXEMPTIONS.—Participating schools may, while  
19         maintaining a school environment free of mobile devices,  
20         allow exemptions such that mobile devices may be used  
21         during school hours—

22                 (1) to monitor or treat health conditions;

23                 (2) by students who are children with disabili-  
24         ties; and

1           (3) by students who are English learners for  
2       translation purposes.

3       (e) PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—Each local edu-  
4       cational agency that applies for participation in the pilot  
5       program under this section shall—

6           (1) notify parents of students enrolled in ele-  
7       mentary schools and secondary schools that are  
8       served by the agency and that may become partici-  
9       pating schools—

10           (A) not less than 30 days before submit-  
11       ting an application under this section; and

12           (B) upon receipt of a grant award under  
13       this section; and

14           (2) solicit feedback from such parents before  
15       applying for the grant about the local educational  
16       agency's desire to implement a school environment  
17       free of mobile devices.

18       (f) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—The Secretary of  
19       Education and the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-  
20       ices may use not more than 2 percent of the amounts  
21       made available to carry out this section for administrative  
22       expenses, data collection, and carrying out the study re-  
23       quired under section 3.

24       (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
25       are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,

1 \$5,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through  
2 2029.