

**A Letter to the Editor of the Columbus Dispatch asks an important question about SB158: If banning all cellphones in schools is a great idea, why not impose the ban on private schools?**

The April 10 letter points to the state policy inconsistencies between school districts and private schools.

This post is not in support or opposition to the ban. It merely points out the inconsistency between rules, regulations, state policies, accountability, etc. between public and private schools. Public schools and students are treated differently than private schools and students. That is like a set of highway speed limits for different income levels of citizens.

**Cellphone bill only targets public schools**

According to its backers, the purpose of Senate Bill 158 is to prohibit the use of cellphones, and other communication devices, by students in all Ohio public schools.

The bill states, 'The board of education of any city, exempted village, local, joint vocational, or cooperative education school district may adopt a policy prohibiting students from carrying an electronic communications device in any school building or on any school grounds or premises of the district.

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The policy may provide for exceptions to this prohibition as specified in the policy. The policy shall specify any disciplinary measures that will be taken for violation of this prohibition.'

Although the taxpayers of Ohio are also having their tax dollars redirected to support private schools, religious-based schools and charter schools, none of these types of schools are considered to be public by this bill.

Are kids who are attending these schools not as worthy of being 'protected' by our legislature? Why aren't these schools considered to be public since they receive public dollars?

One possible answer to questions such as these can also be found in the Ohio legislature's ongoing crusade to dismantle the public school system as we have all come to know it.

Many family members would argue that having the ability to communicate and connect with their student offers peace of mind, safety and comfort. SB 158's definition of a public school certainly feels like an attempt to make that education option less attractive. And that seems to fit the legislature's — and the governor's — real goal.

*David Gobey, Columbus*

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