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**Written Testimony of Dr. Beth J. Sanborn
President, Pennsylvania Association of School Resource Officers (PASRO)
In Support of Bell-to-Bell Cell Phone Ban Policies in Pennsylvania Schools**

Chairperson and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Pennsylvania Association of School Resource Officers (PASRO). As a career law enforcement professional, educator, and now President of PASRO, I have dedicated nearly three decades to the safety and wellbeing of Pennsylvania's students.

From a school safety perspective, PASRO strongly supports legislation establishing bell-to-bell cell phone ban policies in all K–12 schools across the Commonwealth. These policies ensure that personal electronic devices remain inaccessible to students during the entire school day, not just during classroom instruction.

Our position is rooted in experience. Each day, school safety professionals witness firsthand the negative impact of unrestricted cell phone access. Beyond the well-documented concerns of distraction, cyberbullying, and social media–related anxiety, these devices pose serious risks during emergencies. In moments of crisis, student use of cell phones can delay response efforts, spread misinformation, and even endanger lives by revealing locations to potential intruders.

PASRO members across Pennsylvania, alongside educators, administrators, and law enforcement partners, work tirelessly to train school staff, refine emergency operations plans, and strengthen communication systems designed to protect students. None of these evidence-based safety protocols involve students using personal devices during a crisis. In fact, the safest and most effective emergency responses depend on calm, quiet, and controlled environments, guided by trained adults, not distracted students on their phones.

It is vital that, as you consider this legislation, the safety implications remain front and center. We must create learning environments where students can focus, connect, and feel safe, both emotionally and physically.

I have also included a letter of support from Mo Canady, Executive Director of the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO), affirming the national consensus among school safety professionals in support of bell-to-bell, phone-free policies.

On behalf of PASRO and the 1.7 million students we serve, I thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I welcome the opportunity to provide further input or testimony to assist in developing safe, consistent, and effective statewide policies.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Beth J. Sanborn

President, Pennsylvania Association of School Resource Officers

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