

Dear Senators on the Committee on Education,

I am writing in support of SB 283.

Our family experienced serious upheaval--beginning especially in January 2015--when our daughter's 4th grade teacher changed the classroom's seating arrangement after Winter Break. Although we didn't know it at the time, for the rest of that school year, she was sitting just a few feet under the new classroom WiFi router.

She began experiencing a host of symptoms, from heart palpitations, to daily and frequent bouts of nausea (sometimes vomiting), headaches, acid reflux, skin rashes that wouldn't go away, depression and anxiety. At bedtime, she would report that the room seemed to be jiggling back and forth, and that similarly, sometimes at school, the handout on her desk seemed to jiggle back and forth. She also felt pressure in her chest at school. The nausea at night was so intense that it took her hours to fall asleep most nights. Often she'd wake up at 2, 3, 4 in the morning with nausea. One of those nights we drove her to the emergency room at Peace Health Hospital.

We took her many times that winter and spring to the pediatrician for blood tests, tests for parasites, rash medications, and advice. When the pediatrician couldn't find anything wrong, she referred us to a child psychologist. We took her to two child psychologists. Neither could find a cause for her depression and anxiety that wasn't related to the physical symptoms she was suffering from. (She loved school and had many friends.)

Discouraged, we tried taking her to a naturopath and tried several remedies. When none of these helped, the naturopath recommended taking our daughter to a chiropractor to see if perhaps her spine was misaligned, causing it to pinch her digestive organs. The chiropractor adjusted her but found nothing wrong.

We had her tested for food allergies. The results were normal.

We took her to an acupuncturist who treated her weekly and proscribed Chinese herbs. Our daughter felt relaxed during the treatments, so this was a benefit, but the symptoms did not abate. Meanwhile, she was missing a lot of school as a result of feeling sick, fatigued, and all these appointments.

It was only late that spring that a friend suggested a possible link between cellphone radiation and negative health impacts. Following that conversation, I began researching the health effects of electromagnetic radiation, and little by little, my husband and I began experimenting by turning things off at home. For example, we got rid of the wireless router and went back to using an ethernet connection. Over the course of the summer, we quit using our cellphones around our daughter, stopped allowing her to use the iPad, disconnected the Bluetooth from our DVD player, and paid an EMF consultant and an electrician to evaluate the wiring in our home.

By the time our daughter returned to school in the fall, she was back to her old self. But now we had a problem--what if her elementary school had WiFi? I emailed the secretary, who confirmed, "Yes, the school has WiFi." We spoke with her new teacher that week about our predicament. She spoke with the principal, and the three of us met to talk about options. The only thing the principal offered was for our daughter to attend school the last hour or two of the school day in order to stay connected with her friends and have the social interaction. This was in order to avoid being in the classroom when all the children were working on wireless laptops simultaneously (for math and language arts).

Knowing of no other options, we tried this for two weeks. At the end of the second week, our daughter was experiencing the pressure in her chest again. That Friday afternoon, I called just about every school in town, trying to find one without WiFi. When I had exhausted all public options and several private schools, I called Waldorf. They responded, "We just uninstalled our WiFi this past spring." Curious and surprised, I asked why. A parent and a teacher had WiFi sensitivities.

The next Monday we visited the Waldorf school, and within a couple of days we transferred our daughter there. It was heartbreaking and traumatic for her, as well as for us, her parents. It was also a shock to suddenly be paying \$10,000 a year for tuition! Additionally, Waldorf placed her in the 4th grade rather than the 5th since she had a late summer birthday, so it was an added hardship for her to feel that she was 'repeating' a grade.

The long and short of this story is this: I feel very strongly that parents should be made aware of the potential health risks of exposure to the wireless laptops, tablets, WiFi routers, etc. Most importantly, families should have choices within the public school system. For example, there should be one school in every district without wireless technologies in use and instead maintains wired connections to the internet. At the very least, there should be a designated room or wing of a school with wired connections only.

Thank you in advance for taking this testimony to heart and giving this bill your support. It is the right thing to do.

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