

**Gina Wilson, MSE, NBCT
Michigan Education Voice Fellow
6609 Robin Court
Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

**Testimony: SOCIAL MEDIA POLICIES BETWEEN STUDENTS AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL
House Bill 4791 as introduced**

Committee: Education

Sponsor: Rep. Adam F. Zemke

My name is Gina Wilson. I am a Michigan Educator Voice Fellow, a Nationally Board Certified Teacher, and a Lead Teacher and department chair at an early middle college in Southeast Michigan. I want to thank you for visiting the use of social media in Michigan schools through House Bill 4791 because social media use has become an important part of our educational structure in recent years. Our program requires students to take university courses to graduate from high school and we directly teach both soft skills and academic content skills. Part of our soft skill curriculum covers communication, including social media. My colleagues and I work hard to show that electronic communication is just as "real" and important as in-person communication and should be treated with the same respect.

My concern with having a separate policy for social media communication is that students will think it is ok to act differently when shielded by the invisible wall of not seeing the other party in person. Allowing schools and districts to include social media communication in their already-standing policies and philosophies about communication will ultimately benefit the entire education community. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gina Wilson".

Gina Wilson

