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AB-272: Pupils: use of smartphones
as amended 4/11/2019
SUPPORT

EMF Safety Network (EMFSN)¹, Ecological Options Network (EON)², and Environmental Health Trust³ support AB 272 which would permit the governing body of a school district, a county office of education, or a charter school to adopt a policy to limit or prohibit the use of smartphones by pupils.

Smart phones have become a distraction, a major discipline problem in school, and they contribute to an increase in teen mental health problems. In addition, smart phones emit radio frequency radiation (RFR). Peer-reviewed studies show RFR harms public health and children are more vulnerable. AB 272 could have the effect of reducing RFR exposure which would benefit students and teachers.

- The National Toxicology Program published a 30 million dollar study which is one of the largest and most comprehensive studies on cell phone radiation and cancer.

¹ EMF Safety Network (EMFSN) was founded in 2009. Our mission is to educate and empower people by providing science and solutions to reduce EMFs, achieve public policy change, and obtain environmental justice. www.emfsafetynetwork.org

² Ecological Options Network was founded in 2003, is a 501 (c) (3) organization that networks with organizations to empower policy protecting health, environment and consumer rights. <http://www.eon3.org>

³ Environmental Health Trust is a non-profit organization whose mission is to safeguard human health and the environment by empowering people with state-of-the-art information. <https://ehtrust.org>

This study found “clear evidence” of cancer in rats from whole body exposure to cell phone frequencies.”⁴

- The BioInitiative Report, updated in 2012, 2014 and 2017, prepared by 29 authors from ten countries, references more than 3,800 peer-reviewed published studies and recommends stricter biologically based standards and lower RFR exposure limits ”⁵
- The International Agency for Research on Cancer at the World Health Organization classifies wireless as a 2B (possible) carcinogen.⁶
- International independent scientists are calling for immediate measures to reduce RFR. Peer reviewed, published science shows RFR poses serious health and safety risks and children are more vulnerable. 224 scientists have signed the International EMF Scientist Appeal: *“We are scientists engaged in the study of biological and health effects of non-ionizing electromagnetic fields (EMF). Based upon peer-reviewed, published research, we have serious concerns regarding the ubiquitous and increasing exposure to EMF generated by electric and wireless devices. These include—but are not limited to—radiofrequency radiation (RFR) emitting devices, such as cellular and cordless phones and their base stations, Wi-Fi, broadcast antennas, smart meters, and baby monitors as well as electric devices and infra-structures used in the delivery of electricity that generate extremely-low frequency electromagnetic field (ELF EMF).”* “Effects include increased cancer risk, cellular stress, increase in harmful free radicals, genetic damages, structural and functional changes of the reproductive system, learning and memory deficits, neurological disorders, and negative impacts on general well-being in humans.”⁷ Scientists quotes:
 - *“Based upon epidemiological studies there is consistent evidence of increased risk for brain tumors (glioma and acoustic neuroma) associated*

⁴ NTP cell phone study <http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/results/areas/cellphones/index.html>

⁵ Bioinitiative Report conclusions <https://bioinitiative.org/conclusions/>

⁶ IARC/WHO <https://goo.gl/BrkpG8>

⁷ EMF Scientist appeal <https://www.emfscientist.org/index.php/emf-scientist-appeal>

with use of wireless phones.” Lennart Hardell, MD, PhD University Hospital, Orebro, Sweden

- “The harmful effects of electromagnetic fields, regardless of their frequencies, are now scientifically settled. Pregnant women (the fetus) and children and adolescents are particularly vulnerable.”- Dominique Belpomme, MD, MPH, Paris V Descartes University, European Cancer & Environment Research institute.

The United Educators of San Francisco passed a resolution in 2018:

Enhancing Technology Safety in San Francisco Unified School District⁸

WHEREAS, cell phones emit radiofrequency energy when they send and receive signals to and from cell towers, and

WHEREAS, cell phone usage in the United States continues to increase, especially among children, and

WHEREAS, the science surrounding the emission of radio-frequency energy from cell phones has not reached a level of consensus within the scientific community, and

WHEREAS, current research is suggesting long-term high usage of cell phones and the concomitant exposure to the energy emitted by those cell phones may impact human health, and

WHEREAS, the developing brains of children and adolescents may be more affected than others by cell phone use, and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Public Health, in December of 2017, issued guidelines on reducing exposure to radiofrequency energy from cell phones, including (1) keeping cell phones away from your body, (2) reducing or avoiding use of cell phones when it is sending out high levels of RF energy, (3) not sleeping with the cell phone in your bed or near your head, (4) removing a headset when not directly on a call, and (5) do not rely on “radiation shields” or other products claiming to block RF energy, electromagnetic fields or radiation from cell phones, and

WHEREAS, the science in this area is still evolving, enough concern exist that implementing simple steps can reduce exposure for children, adolescents and adults, and

⁸ <http://www.uesf.org/san-francisco-educators-pass-resolution-calling-for-safer-technology-standards-for-all-san-francisco-schools/>

WHEREAS, the public school district in Ashland, Massachusetts, through its own review of the matter, has instituted district-wide “best practices for mobile devices” aimed at reducing wireless radiation exposures, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that UESF place this matter as an agenda item for discussion in the UESF/SFUSD Labor-Management Health and Safety Committee at the first meeting of the committee following passage of this resolution, and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said agenda items will include (the discussion of the CA DPH guidelines for reducing exposure to RF energy from cell phones, (2) the development and dissemination of SFUSD best practices for the reduction of RF energy, (3) recommend that all students and families have access to the CA DPH guidelines via the SFUSD Student/Family Handbook, and the posting of the CA DPH guidelines in every classroom (see attached) and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UESF publicize to its members, via e-mail blast (including a link to the CA DPH guidelines) and via publication with the union’s newspaper, the CA Department of Public Health guidelines for reducing exposure to RF energy from cell phones, and

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that UESF urge its members to follow the CA DPH recommendations in their personal and professional use of devices emitting radio frequency energy.

Current FCC guidelines do not protect public health.

The FCC has not updated its wireless exposure guidelines since 1996. The federal government has taken sole responsibility for the radiation safety of personal wireless service deployment,⁹ despite this, no federal agency is acting responsibly, or taking accountability for protecting the public and the environment from the health effects of radiation exposure.

For these reasons, we support AB 272.

⁹ 47 U.S.C. § 332(c)(7); 47 C.F.R. 1.1307(b) and 1.1310 overheating of human tissues by RF radiation.

Respectfully submitted on April 12, 2019:

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