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Senate Minority Leader

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SENATE CHAMBER

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Senate Leadership Introduces Legislation to Prohibit Cell Phones in K-12 Schools

TOPEKA – Today, Senate Majority Leader Chase Blasi (R-Andale) and Minority Leader Dinah Sykes (D-Lenexa) introduced bipartisan legislation that will prohibit cell phones in K-12 Kansas schools. Leaders from both parties came together to say the following:

“Phone-free schools give students space to think, build authentic human relationships, and protect student mental health from constant digital pressure,” Senator Blasi said. “The longer phones stay in classrooms, the harder it becomes to undo the damage.”

Senator Sykes added, “Studies show that classrooms without phones have more engaged students leading to face-to-face conversations, stronger peer relationships, safer school environments and better academic outcomes. Kansas has world class teachers and world class schools and we need to keep it that way and this legislation helps us do that.”

Senate Bill 302 is a high priority of lawmakers and is expected to pass the Senate in January, where it will be sent to the House of Representatives. The Senate has 28 co-sponsors, more than 2/3 of the Senate. The legislation impacts both public and private schools accredited by the Kansas State Department of Education.