

April 30, 2013

TechAmerica
1400 K Street, Suite 201
Sacramento, CA 95814

TO: Senate Committee on Education and Workforce
FR: TechAmerica

RE: HB 2386 – Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) – Oppose

On behalf of the Technology Association of America (TechAmerica)¹, I am writing in opposition to HB 2386 which would prohibit the use of radio frequency identification devices (RFID) if the device is used for the purpose of locating or tracking a student or taking attendance.

HB 2386 would place strict requirements on schools that want to use RFID to monitor student attendance. Since other technologies are not subject to similar regulation, HB 2386 is likely to discourage schools from using RFID despite its proven value and safety in thousands of other applications across the nation. TechAmerica would also oppose strict requirements against the ban of other technologies as well as there are innovations in technologies capabilities that can increase efficiencies and benefits for schools and parents.

It is important to note that the technology industry has a significant positive impact on the Oregon economy. According to the TechAmerica Foundation's most recent Cyberstates report, 60 of every 1,000 private sector workers in Oregon are employed by high-tech firms, with an average wage of over \$87,510.00. There are also over 5,000 high-tech establishments in Oregon with a combined total of \$6.9 billion in annual payroll. Thus, the technology industry adds significantly to the economy through employment and by creating and offering new and innovative products to the people of this state.

HB 2386 would stifle innovation and deny Oregon the benefits of establishing technology that can improve security and accountability in attendance. We look forward to working together so we can ensure that a technology neutral policy approach converges to provide the benefits of this innovative technology to enhance economic growth improve efficiencies and enhance quality of life in Oregon.

For these reasons, we must oppose HB 2386. Thank you for considering our views. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Hitt at kelly.hitt@techamerica.org or 916-505-9053.

Sincerely



Kelly McKechnie Hitt
Director, State Government Affairs
Western Region

¹TechAmerica is the leading voice for the U.S. technology industry – the driving force behind productivity growth and jobs creation in the United States and the foundation of the global innovation economy. Representing approximately 1,000 member companies of all sizes from the public and commercial sectors of the economy, it is the industry's largest advocacy organization. TechAmerica is also the technology industry's only grassroots-to-global advocacy network, with offices in state capitals around the United States, Washington, D.C., Europe (Brussels) and Asia (Beijing). Learn more about TechAmerica at www.techamerica.org.