

One of the main things we are dealing with here, is that wireless technology has been responsible for so many breakthroughs in so many areas, including medical devices and communication, that no one wants to believe that it may pose serious health risks. So, all the tech industry has to do is create a slight "doubt" to the truth of scientific studies sending up red flags, and we are willing to disregard all warnings. At the very least, we want to believe that the "benefits" of wireless technology far outweigh the downsides.

Even the presentation of the bills capitalize on our wish that the benefits will outweigh the dangers. Each benefit of the bill is given its own bullet point. Then, at the very end, there is tiny paragraph indicating that there are some health concerns. The detailed presentation of the benefits, and the brief mention of the downside, feeds into our wish that the benefits far outweigh the negative factors.

Several years ago, the World Health Organization estimated that, at that time, between 3 and 5% of the population was sensitive to wireless signals, and that the numbers were expected to increase. Today, Dafna cited 10%. Even at 3%, which is the lowest estimate of the number of people who experience symptoms, in Michigan, that means 300,000 people. They are also getting medical treatment, which is already impacting our health care system. Many of these people would, otherwise, have no health problems. This morning, when Representative Johnson asked about recourse, the answer from the tech industry linked recourse to certification. What that means is, people sensitive to the 5G cells outside their homes have NO RECOURSE. They are stuck, because, of course, the devices meet FCC standards.

My biggest concern, though, is the negative effect on children. Children, and especially fetuses, are more vulnerable because their brains are still developing. They are our future, and their health and safety should be our priority. Diseases, including cancer, that we used to associate with adults, are becoming more prevalent in children. Also on the rise are learning problems, behavior problems, and Autism.

Other countries are not as "reckless" in exposing children to wireless devices. In France, children only use hardwired computers in schools. And French laws restrict how close a cell tower can be to a school. Not so in Michigan: In Ann Arbor, we even have cell towers ON SCHOOL PROPERTY.

More and more children are developing diseases we used to associate with adults, and schools have more children with behavior and learning problems. Although I support every effort to improve our schools, and efforts to support parents in developing good parenting skills, I hope that at some point, we will stop placing all the blame on teachers and parents, and look at environmental factors that are likely to be affecting our children's development, their behavior, and their ability to learn.

Below, I've listed just a few of the studies that should encourage taking a more cautious approach to expanding our already extensive exposure to wireless signals:

- As early as 2010 a Danish study suggested that pregnant women who used cell phones a lot during pregnancy were much more likely to give birth to children who exhibited learning and behavior problems.
- A few years ago, scientists at Harvard University urged pregnant women to limit their cell phone use, AND to avoid holding or carrying a cell phone near the womb. Even though the Harvard study had been done on mice, the connection between exposure to cell phones and learning and behavior problems in the offspring was so pronounced, that the scientists believed pregnant women should take precautionary measures.
- Many years ago, the area of our country with the highest percentage of children with Autism, was Silicon Valley. Currently, the rates of Autism have increased significantly all over. I am not arguing a definite connection, but wouldn't it have been prudent to do studies to rule out such a connection BEFORE saturating the entire country with so many wireless devices and so many cell towers?

It is not only humans that may be at risk. One study showed that when bees were exposed to a wireless signal from a cell phone, the worker bees exited the bee hive, did "piping" behavior, and died. Another study demonstrated that exposure to wireless signals interfered with birds' ability to navigate properly.

Wireless devices are convenient, fun, and are here to stay. However, we are at a point where we need to be clear in setting our priorities. We need to expand our use of wireless technology ONLY when necessary. Whenever there is a viable, healthier, safer option, using the alternative option is not just common sense, it is an absolute necessity.

Fiber Optics is one such system. We are at a point where we need to upgrade, and we need to do it in the safest, healthiest, most secure way possible. It may look like Fiber Optics is a more expensive route to take, especially at the outset. However, the savings in opting for a healthier, more secure network, will far outweigh any perceived advantage that wireless has. Also, in the future, additional upgrades are sure to be needed. Fiber Optics will continue to offer healthier, safer, and more secure upgrades.

Fiber optics will also supply a variety of jobs, both skilled and unskilled, that will be good for economy. We will have a safer, healthier, and more secure infrastructure, one that can grow as needed, AND we will be able to employ more people and stimulate our economy.

Hopefully, our experiences in Flint taught us that what may appear to be a cost-saving measure, may actually turn out to cost more - - - both financially and in health care - - - in the long run.

Please vote FOR the people of Michigan, and vote NO on SB637 and SB 894.

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