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Subject: Letter of Concern Sent on Behalf of Environmental Health Trust and Medical and Public Health Experts in Bioelectromagnetics by Devra Lee Davis PhD, MPH, President to the Los Angeles United School District

I am currently President of Environmental Health Trust--a non-profit research and educational organization funded through the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole, with support from the Kone Foundation of Finland, The Fine Family Foundation, Radiation Research Trust, U.K., Rockefeller Family Fund, and other private donors. I am a Fellow of the American College of Epidemiology and a toxicologist who has served in a number of governmental and non-governmental posts over the past forty years, including founding Director, Center for Environmental Oncology, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, and Professor of Epidemiology at the Graduate School of Public Health (2004-2009). I was also was the founding director of the Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology of the U.S. National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences and Scholar in Residence, 1983-1993, have held a number of Presidential or Senate-confirmed appointments and received a number of awards, including being a part of the group awarded the Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore in 2007, for serving as a Lead Author on Climate Change for the U.N. Report. In addition, I have written more than 190 publications in books and journals ranging from the Lancet and Journal of the American Medical Association to Scientific American, and have authored several non-fiction books, including most recently, Disconnect--the truth about cellphone radiation, Dutton/Plume, 2011.

I am writing to you to relay my deep concerns and those of my co-authors, about the absence of consideration of the growing body of scientific evidence indicating that cell phone and other wireless radiating devices pose serious risks to public health, especially to children, as the Los Angeles United School District considers major expansion of educational technology in the coming years.

Attached to this brief statement is a new, peer-reviewed article being released to you today with special permission of the editor of the Journal of Pathophysiology, written by Prof. Santosh Kesari, MD, PhD, Chief of Neuro-oncology, University of California, San Diego, and two of Canada's most distinguished cancer epidemiologists, Prof. Emeritus, Anthony B. Miller MD, and Prof. Colin Soskolne, PhD, as well as Internal Medicine at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, expert, Yael Stein, MD, and me.

We find that new studies published since the WHO, International Agency for Research on Cancer(IARC), declared in 2011 that cellphones and other wireless devices are a "possible human carcinogen" (2B) support a change in that determination. For your information, materials that share this classification as a 2B carcinogen include: jet fuel, chloroform and DDT.

In our new paper, we conclude that the weight of scientific evidence available at this time supports a classification of cell phone and other wireless technology as a "probable human carcinogen." (2A) The information on which we base this view includes experimental studies as well as a growing number of studies in humans. The criteria on which we rely have been validated through more than three decades of use by the IARC; other materials classified as probable human carcinogen include: diesel engine exhaust, tars, petroleum refining and a number of pesticides. Our paper reviews new studies not available to the IARC in its determination in 2011, including several reports from the team of Swedish investigators led by Lennart Hardell. Studies carried out in Sweden indicate that those who begin using either cordless or mobile phones regularly before age 20 have greater than a 4-fold increased risk of ipsilateral glioma, with heaviest users having a 8-fold higher risk.

We note that the American Academy of Pediatrics has expressed its concerns about the growing exposures to children in a letter to Congress dated 12 December 2012:

“Children are disproportionately affected by environmental exposures, including cell phone radiation. The differences in bone density and the amount of fluid in a child’s brain compared to an adult’s brain could allow children to absorb greater quantities of RF energy deeper into their brains than adults. It is essential that any new standards for cell phones

or other wireless devices be based on protecting the youngest and most vulnerable populations to ensure they are safeguarded through their lifetimes.”

The planned expansion of uses and exposures to wi-fi throughout the school district should be re-thought in light of this evidence, as well as other reports, including the comprehensive review by the Bioinitiative Report, 2012. As many researchers have noted, children are not merely little adults. Their brains and skulls absorb more radiation than do adults. Empirical data have shown a difference in the dielectric properties of tissues as a function of age, mostly due to the higher water content in children's tissues. High resolution computerized models based on human imaging data suggest that children are indeed more susceptible to the effects of EMF exposure at microwave frequencies. If the increased brain cancer risk found in young users in these recent studies does apply at the global level, the gap between supply and demand for oncology services will continue to widen. Many nations, phone manufacturers, and expert groups, advise prevention in light of these concerns by taking the simple precaution of “distance” to minimize exposures to the brain and body.

Please be aware that national authorities in France and Israel are advising against wi-fi expansion, especially in schools with younger children. Many authorities have noted that standards for wireless exposures differ by several orders of magnitude, with those in the home country of the World Health Organization, Switzerland being among the most stringent in the world.

In fact, research on this topic remains poorly funded in the U.S. The absence of definitive information on risks from wi-fi in the U.S. at this time should not be interpreted as proof of safety. There is a clear and compelling need to reduce exposures across the board, while monitoring and research programs are created. The brains of children and teenager continue to develop throughout the school years. The acquisition of the protective fatty sheath of myelin continues to grow until the mid-twenties. When we build bridges and roads, we rely on safety factors to ensure that they can withstand stresses of weather and time. We owe our children the same consideration.

Members of our team of experts stand ready to advise you regarding the health issues at hand and appropriate policies to incorporate modern educational technology that do not rely on expanding wi-fi, but taps innovative ways of using wired technologies. Wired systems are far more safe, secure,

and speedy, and avoid potential long term public health issues. In addition, wired systems will protect the growing number of persons who are hyper-sensitive to wi-fi exposures, as well as limit risks to persons with pace-makers or those with other implanted electronic or metal devices that can absorb greater amounts of such radiation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Dr. Toni Stein, EHT West Coast Project Leader, should you have any questions.

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