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I am testifying in support of LD 1013, a bill to give to cell-phone users health and safety information they need to know but of which they are often oblivious. What we are asking for -- a warning to NOT use a cell phone in direct contact with the body, especially the head

-- must be actually included on the device as well as in the manuals that accompany cell phones when they are sold. These small-print warnings are not being read by users customarily. We see no evidence that the increasing numbers of people using cell phones, especially young people under 20, are aware of the risks posed by their nearly constant exposure to electromagnetic radiation. "Avoid direct contact" means "Do not keep the cell phone in a pocket against the body," but users commonly do just that.

The first concern to be noted is that allowable levels of EMR have been set about 1,000 times too high. So the Children's Wireless Protection Act would represent an interim step until manufacturers' standards are raised and safer devices are marketed. All of the leading scientists in the field maintain that it is possible to develop safer cell phones (by investing more money to improve the technology), and that is what we are after: cell phones with meaningful safety standards.

Inquiring minds will be wondering: How have we come to this -- ubiquitous use of a technology that is demonstrably unsafe, as verified by neurologists who see the damage close up? Herd mentality explains much of the practice -- the assumption, promoted by aggressive advertising, that we must acquire the means to be wired at all times. But buying influence and funding studies that deny any causal links between cell-phone use and neurological disease are the underlying strategy of the telecom industry.

Because Maine is predominantly a rural state, we must consider the fact that cell phones emit more EMR in less-settled areas in order to connect to a distant base station. And how many people know that

— Jody Spear
testimony
LD 1013