Testimony of Mazzanni Burnett, Student

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Thank you Senator Hagan and other distinguished guests for allowing me to attend this hearing and giving me the opportunity to share with you about my experiences regarding technology. My name is Mazzanni Burnett, I am an eighth grade student at Kennedy Middle School here in Charlotte, North Carolina, and I am a proud technology native. I am currently growing up in a world in which technology is used for various reasons and in many ways. I would like to share with you how I feel that the use of technology would be beneficial to my peers and I in school.

I feel technology is beneficial in schools simply because as a teenager being able to have use of computers keeps me engaged and motivated. Now I am not saying that the use of computers or any other technology device is all that keeps me interested in school, but it plays a big role. I have noticed in my short years of growing that since the use of technology has become a part of schools a lot more kids my age are participating more in classrooms than before. I feel that some children my age may find that following along with a class while using textbooks a bit overwhelming for various reasons. However, textbooks can be a good place to find some helpful information, but to be able to have access to computers in school to research information I feel is far more beneficial. For example, when my teacher gave me a project to complete on someone I refer to as a hero, I decided to write about the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and I knew exactly where to go to obtain any information needed to complete my assignment via the internet.

Computers are great tools to use for researching information and to be able to gain knowledge on the use of technology. I also feel that at this age the exposure to computers in school is helping prepare me for bigger and better things. Everything that we use now on a day-to-day basis uses some type of technology. Whether it is a computer, smartphone, iPod, or whatever piece of digital device it may be. Why not use it to learn? What better way to use technology! So in my conclusion I think that the use of technology in schools is a great way and a great tool to use when it comes to education. Not only are we getting educated on basic studies, but we are also getting to explore our interests through the use of technology.