

National Institute for Science, Law and Public Policy
1400 16th Street, NW, Suite 101, Washington, DC 20036

September 9, 2014

Dr. John E. Chubb
National Association of Independent Schools
1129 20th Street, NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036-3425

Dear Dr. Chubb,

My name is James S. Turner. I am the Chairman of the National Institute for Science, Law and Public Policy (NISLAPP), Chairman of Citizens for Health, and senior partner at Swankin and Turner, a Washington, D.C. law firm specializing since 1973 in regulatory and policy issues for corporate, government, and non-profit clients.

NISLAPP was founded in 1978 to bridge the gap between scientific uncertainties and the need for laws protecting public health and safety. In recent years, we have become increasingly focused on the large and growing body of science demonstrating biological, health, and DNA effects from exposure to Radio Frequency Radiation (RFR), the type emitted by cell phones and wireless technologies.

On June 26, 2014, NAIS published an online post on this subject, "*Non-Ionizing Radiation: Literature Review*," written by staff members Jefferson Burnett and Debra Wilson, Esq. We are concerned that the writers oversimplified the subject, disregarding literally thousands of studies (including meta analyses and reviews) showing both biological and health effects from wireless radiation, as well as actions in at least 14 countries based on this body of scientific knowledge. NAIS's one page 'review' offered only 5 references, which presented a one-sided and misleading picture (please see the attached critique of the NAIS post by Campaign for Radiation Free Schools).

Among the information of which the writers appear to have been unaware are the facts that wireless radiation has been classified as a Group 2B 'Possible Human Carcinogen' by the WHO's International Agency on Cancer Research (May 2011), that professors at Harvard, Yale, Columbia, and other prominent universities, as well as physicians' associations both in the U.S. and abroad, are warning about risks of overexposure, and that many countries around the world are now taking proactive steps to protect children from the dangers of wireless radiation. For your reference, I have attached a copy of "*Electromagnetic Sensitivity and Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity, A Summary*," Michael Bevington, Capability Books, 2013, U.K.

Had the writers been more thorough, they would also have encountered expert critiques of the current regulatory system for protecting the public from wireless radiation risks, including that the FCC exposure guidelines are inadequate to protect human health, since they are based only on thermal effects and do not address known non-thermal effects; that the FCC guidelines are based on the assumption of average exposures, whereas in real world situations there are peaks, pulsing and other signal characteristics to which the body responds; and that studies suggest the effects of this type of radiation may be cumulative, with long-term exposure to low levels of RFR having effects similar to high exposure for short periods.

It appears that the NAIS post is influencing independent school administrators, faculty, parents and school trustees. This has the potential for undermining the health, wellness and learning ability of students, in particular students currently experiencing electro-sensitivity symptoms and other preexisting health challenges or vulnerabilities. We understand that schools are now using this post as justification for ignoring the concerns of parents whose children experience fatigue, attention difficulties, irritability, and even cardiac irregularities in the presence of high-powered industrial strength WiFi in schools.

We would like NAIS to reconsider its role in this situation and replace the post with more accurate, timely, and balanced information.

My NISLAPP colleague working on this issue and I, along with some of our scientific advisors, would welcome an opportunity to meet with you to discuss ways NAIS can send a more nuanced and balanced message so that schools can make better-informed decisions.

Our adviser David Carpenter, MD, Director of the Institute for Health and the Environment at University at Albany/SUNY, is a member of the Board of Directors of the Healthy Schools Network, and a widely published expert on electromagnetic fields. He co-edited a review in 2009 and 2012 of the large body of science on this topic written by 29 international scientists in ten countries, much of which was published in the journal, *Pathophysiology*. As former Dean of the University at Albany School of Public Health, and previously Director of the New York State Department of Health's Wadsworth Laboratory, Dr. Carpenter has a breadth and depth of public health expertise to evaluate this emerging public health issue that I think you would appreciate. I enclose a review article by Dr. Carpenter, "*Human disease resulting from exposure to electromagnetic fields*," published in *Reviews in Environmental Health*.

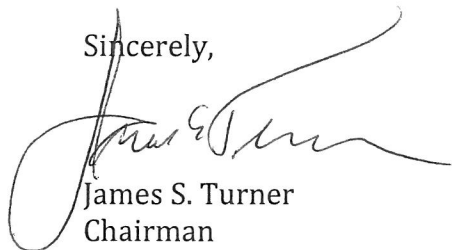
There are safer technology alternatives to WiFi for use in schools. NAIS would not recommend exposing students to 2nd hand tobacco smoke, or painting school walls with lead paint. My colleagues and I would like to explain the parallels between these problems, which in their early days also went unrecognized, and chronic electromagnetic pollution, and inspire you to see how minimizing electromagnetic pollution in schools is consistent with NAIS's stated strategic objectives of 'strengthening learning environments' and 'affirming access.'

As you may know, \$2 billion in federal underwriting is being allocated to expanding WiFi in schools, encouraged by FCC Chairman, Tom Wheeler, who previously headed the CTIA (the wireless industry association). Despite the politics surrounding this, and the accepted tendency in many circles in Washington to ignore 'inconvenient' risks, I wonder if perhaps together NAIS and NISLAPP could devise recommendations that would afford schools and students the many benefits of new digital education technologies without the avoidable biological downsides of the present approach. I would very much like to explore this possibility with you.

As the leader of the NAIS, you could play a pivotal role with constructive and meaningful impact. We would welcome your serious engagement and collaboration.

I very much look forward to hearing from you and hope we can schedule a meeting soon. I can be reached at (202) 462-8800 or at Jim@swankin-turner.com.

Sincerely,



James S. Turner
Chairman

Enclosures

1. "*Human disease resulting from exposure to electromagnetic fields*", David O. Carpenter, MD, *Reviews in Environmental Health*, 2013; 28(4): 159-172
2. "*Electromagnetic Sensitivity and Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity, A Summary*", Michael Bevington, Capability Books, 2013, U.K.
3. Critique of NAIS post by Campaign for Radiation Free Schools, September 7, 2014