Good Afternoon. My name is Nora Paul-Schultz and I am a physics teacher in Boston Public Schools and a resident of Jamaica Plain.

As someone who studied engineering when I was in college, has taught engineering, and is one of the robotics team coaches at the O'Bryant School, I understand the impulse to feel like technology can solve all of our problems. I know that for many there is this desire that if we have better, smarter and more technology, then our communities will be safer.

But the reality is that technology is not a perfect, unbiased tool as much as we wish it would be. Our technologies reflect the inherent biases of their makers, so technology isn't going to save us. It does not take much to see that racism is infused into all parts of our country and that is true about facial surveillance technologies.

Through my work with Unafraid Educators, the Boston Teachers Union's immigrant rights organizing committee, on the information-sharing between Boston School Police and the Boston Police Department, I know how detrimental observations and surveillance can be. Practices of surveillance -- like cameras recording hallways or officers watching young people -- are not passive. Surveillance is active. It leads to the creation of law enforcement profiles about young people, and that can impact their lives in material ways for years to come. And what are those impacts? Being "in the system" can make it harder for young people to get a job or get housing. It can lead to incarceration. It can lead to deportation. Our city government does not need more tools to profile the people of our city, and we especially don't need tools that are inherently racist. This is why the ban is so important.

Teaching has taught me that what keeps us safe is not having the government surveil us and track us through technology. What keeps us safe is investing in housing, education, and healthcare. This face surveillance technology harms our community. The fact that the face ban technology only identifies black women correctly a third of the time lays bare both its ineffectiveness and the implicit bias built into the system. As a teacher, I know that that is not a passing grade. We need money to go to services that will protect our community and we need to stop and prevent the use of ineffective, racist, and money-wasting technologies.