

Submitter: Cora Turner
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB421

My name is Cora Turner and I am a ninth-grader at Ashland High school. I'm a regional leader with Our Future Oregon and secretary of my school's QSA. I would like to share my climate experience. Oregon is truly a beautiful state and when I first moved here I loved looking at the mountains around me. I could see all around me mountains that were covered in beautiful green trees and grass. Then something changed. The mountains turned brown in the summer. Then there was smoke. I could no longer see the mountains. They were covered in a screen of sickly smoke. I couldn't go outside and the sky was always gray as ash.

If this is the world adults are going to build for their children, then we deserve to know how it reached this point. Teaching students about climate change and its impacts could be a game changer. Bill SB 854 would help students across Oregon understand the importance of climate change. We need to be teaching children as young as elementary school about climate change because this affects people of all ages. My six-year-old sister is only in first grade but she still couldn't play in our backyard for months. She deserves to know why.

As lawmakers, is it not your responsibility to protect Oregonians? You are in an incredibly unique position to effect immense positive change on students all across our state. When you make your decision I ask you to please look to the future. Consider what you want the children of the future to say when they talk about climate change. Thank you for taking my viewpoint into consideration.