

Submitter: Gayatri Gadre  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB854

Thank you Chair Senator Manning Jr and members of the committee.  
My name is Gayatri Gadre and I am a sophomore student at Westview High School. I am here today testifying in support of SB 854, which would require each school district to develop a written plan establishing climate change instructional programs for k-12 grades by June 1, 2026.

Climate education is important to me because people are unaware of it. Many people that I know at school don't understand the severity or effects it could have in the long term. Climate change is thought of as a far off thing, something that won't have a direct effect on us, even though there's already been consequences due to it. One of these consequences is one that many people don't know. Lately, in the past few years, there have been more fires, and due to them, more smoke in the air. The last time there were fires, the smoke was thick enough to make the sun look red, and you couldn't step outside without the overly sweet smell of the smoke in the air. It even impaired visibility while driving. The increasing occurrence of these fires is because of the lack of moisture in the air, making it dry and easier for fires to spread. This lack of moisture is due to the changing climate, but not many people know about that. The evidence of the changing climate is right outside our windows, but people are still ignorant.

This legislation will ensure that students will learn about climate change and its impacts on the environment and will teach students how to minimize waste and make the most out of their materials. Climate education would introduce the problem of climate change to the people who will be leading this nation in the future, and will prevent ignorance of the issue, both of which will have a positive outcome in the long term. We can't afford to think about climate education as a short term wave that can be forgotten, because climate change itself is a long term battle to be fought.

I urge you to please listen to the voices of youth and prioritize access to equitable climate justice education in our public schools this session and beyond. Thank you for your time and allowing me the opportunity to speak today.

Kind regards,

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