

Hello Committee Members, and thank you for the opportunity to give testimony on Senate Bill 854. My name is Karthik Krishnamurthy, and I am a junior at Westview High School. I am involved in several clubs at school, including the school student union and an editorship position at the school newspaper.

I want to share the importance of this bill. Climate change is the biggest issue of our time, and possibly the biggest that humans have ever faced in their existence. Understandably, the issue of climate change can feel daunting. But there is plenty of reason to believe that there is hope for eliminating climate change. Although many people think climate change is a problem that needs to be “solved”, the solutions have been there for a long time. The main problem is public engagement and a willingness to follow through on more sustainable solutions.

However, with the passage of SB 854, the next generation of students can understand why climate change is happening, as well as how it is affecting and will affect people. Not only will the bill help them be more knowledgeable members of society in a changing world, but it will encourage the implementation of solutions in a variety of fields. Changing times require us to prioritize the topics like climate change that will shape the next few decades, and a great way to put that into practice is by more effectively incorporating these topics into school curricula.

While “climate change” can be a vast and daunting term, reversing its effects doesn’t have to be limited to the international or corporate level. It can be at the state level, too, in ordinary schools where kids have the opportunity to truly understand the problem we all face both now and in the coming years. SB 854 will make that possible, not just for this generation but for all future generations who will one day have to manage the repercussions of our decisions today. A vote for SB 854 is a vote for our future, and a message to the rest of the nation that we are committed to mitigating climate change.

Hoping for your support,

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