

Submitter: Grace Wollmuth
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB854

Thank you Chair Ron Wagner and members of the committee.

My name is Grace Wollmuth and I am a 12th-grade student at Lake Oswego 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 of the impact that climate education has had in my own life. The climate education I received in my science and history classes has empowered me to make a difference and has made me more environmentally conscious. I was inspired to do my own research outside of school and I have learned about policy creation and the importance of considering economic and financial barriers. I have also been inspired to pursue a career in environmental analysis where I can gain the tools necessary to positively impact the environment on a global scale.

This legislation will ensure that all students are taught the impact of global warming. It will mitigate climate fear and inspire state-wide change.

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.