

Submitter: Amy Henrikson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB854

Hello, and thank you for considering this vital legislation.

As a current senior at Lincoln High School, I can confirm that my most impactful formal education experiences have been in classes that focus on Climate Change. They opened my eyes to the depth of the issue and inspired me to work with several advocate organizations. Whether it's a class like Environmental Justice or a general English or science, I see students more engaged with the class when discussing personal pertinent issues like Climate Change. My generation is set to inherit this world, and we deserve to learn about all of its complexities—especially in the context of our school systems. Relevant, local information is key to captivating young people: we understand the world through our experiences; practically any person in Oregon has experienced Climate Change's effects to some extent. When I taught local elementary school students about Climate Change with our school's Environmental Justice Club on Earth Day, many kindergartners had never heard of it. Luckily, we had the opportunity to educate them. However, this shouldn't be the job of high schoolers, it should be built into our systems. I strongly encourage the passage of SB 854 for the benefit of all students in Oregon, and our greater community.

Amy Henrikson (she/her)
Lincoln High School