

Submitter: Shuhan Li
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB854

Hello Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony on Senate Bill 854. My name is Shuhan Li, and I am a current freshman at Westview High School. I am here today to urge your support of this bill.

I want to share with you a little bit about my climate story. I still remember when in 2020, my family and I received a Level 2 evacuation notice due to wildfires as I watched ashes rain down from the burning red sky, all due to climate change. According to the Doomsday Clock, which measures how close the world is to ending from apocalyptic threats such as climate change, we are only 90 seconds to midnight. With climate change, we are only pushing the hand closer to midnight – the point of annihilation. However, climate change is almost never brought up, so students don't have the opportunity to learn about climate change and how our future is on the edge of a cliff.

And this is why I am in support of Senate Bill 854. It is extremely important for Oregon students to be educated about climate change in the classroom. By educating students about climate change at school, we'll be much more prepared and well-equipped to tackle this issue. Our education system should be preparing us for reality and for the future. SB 854 will be able to do this. If we are equipped with knowledge about climate change, we will be able to take action. We will have the power to preserve the planet we call home.

As lawmakers, you have immense power to bring positive transformation and point your colleagues into doing what is right and what is in the interest of the public. Teachers do not have to create a whole new curriculum. They only have to include things about climate change in their lessons. By supporting Senate Bill 854, Oregon could set an example nationwide and even globally. By supporting Senate Bill 854, we will move one step closer to saving our home.

Thank you for your time,
Sincerely,
Shuhan Li