

Submitter: Laura Sutherland  
On Behalf Of: Southern Oregon  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB854

Ladies and Gentleman,

Oregon schools are trailing in terms of levels of education, projections over the next several years include a reduction in the ability to read, do arithmetic and even a decrease in physical abilities. Certainly, a topic that even scientists cannot agree on at this point in time deserves more understanding prior to making it part of the curriculum for all grades. Will the curriculum suggested disclose both sides of the climate story? Look at polar bears, the average person, including all teachers polled, believe there are less than 3500 Polar bears across the globe. Simply not true, the real numbers in the northwest hemisphere are greater than 35,000, this does not include Russia. Russia land masses have not even been assessed for the numbers of Polar bears due to the remote and sheer ruggedness of the territory. Estimations from scientists across the spectrum of the northern world, put the estimate at the same or more for the northwest hemisphere. Making polar bears numbers greater than 50,000 across the world. Will this curriculum discuss the child slave labor around the world used to mine the minerals needed for electric vehicle batteries? Will it teach Oregon school children about the slave labor in China, used to create the iPhone they each carry? Or will this be a one-sided agenda such as the current federal agencies are pushing? In my opinion, this bill will only force more families to home school, thereby taking precious resources from an already struggling education system. Think long and hard about the consequences to our children's education if this becomes a requirement, children already are not meeting the current educational requirements. Let's start back with the basics and get children educated again.