

Submitter: Rob Merriman  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB854

I am writing in opposition to SB 854. When will we accept responsibility for focusing our educational efforts on the foundational skills of reading, writing and math, especially in grades K-12? By any reasonable standard we are failing at those core subjects, yet we insist on taking more time pursuing additional, less critical and controversial subjects.

The subject of climate change, much like the recent COVID pandemic and the public health recommendations that followed, is not a matter of settled science. In that instance, what was portrayed as a scientific consensus has proven to be nothing more than a narrow, biased view that ignored many credible, well credentialed and published professionals who happened to disagree. You must know that climate change is a controversial topic...the fact that you might not is another reason for my concern. We in the state of Oregon cannot even discuss mathematics without it degenerating into an accusation of racism...how in heaven's name do you think our school districts are equipped to prepare an unbiased presentation on the subject of climate change? And again, why are we even thinking about devoting any time or energy to it given our state's dismal performance in the core, most essential subjects?