

Submitter: Gabriel Burke
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3365

Dear members of the House Education Committee, my name is Gabriel Burke. I have been an activist and an organizer in Eugene for the past 3 years. I have worked to reduce food waste at my school, participated in and lead demonstrations, and am a member of my school's Native American Student Union. Over the course of my life, I have sought to lift others up, to make their voices heard. I advocate for House Bill 3365 because I believe that everyone should have the education and tools they need to fight disasters they may face in their lives. Whatever the cause be, nobody in the state of Oregon will deny that we experience droughts, we experience floods, we experience wildfires and snow storms. All of these events take tolls on communities, especially rural communities who do not have the infrastructure or resources to deal with these events on a large scale.

I don't seek to add more stress to the lives of teachers in Oregon. HB-3365 was specifically rewritten to prevent adding more onto the plates of teachers. HB-3365 only seeks to rewrite the standards by which curricula are reviewed and written, not to add more to existing curricula, and not to create new curricula. I have a lot of respect for my teachers, they have extremely difficult jobs, and they devote themselves to making sure students are informed, prepared, and safe. I believe that in the face of extreme events, part of preparing students involves ensuring they are equipped to handle those crises they may experience.

In my lifetime so far, I have always been "the next generation". I have always been the one whose future is being weighed when decisions for the future are made. Now, at age 18, "the next generation" is shifting even beyond me, to those even younger than me. It is now, as I enter adulthood, that I feel I must not only protect this world, to ensure it is livable for my generation, but for the generation after mine, and generations after that. I have worked on this bill, in some variation (originally presented in the 2023 legislative session as SB-854), for over 2 years. I have seen this bill evolve, and I believe that HB-3365 has further improved upon SB-854. I am pleased to see that the text of this bill includes the following text "including Indigenous knowledge, natural resource management, career-connected learning and stewardship economies, for climate adaptation and mitigation." I feel that this is a key step in uplifting the voices of my indigenous brothers and sisters.

I wish to live in a world where every individual is capable of making informed decisions about their lives. I wish to live in a world where communities know what to do when they are in crisis. I wish to live in a world where children do not fear their future. I wish to live in a world of hope, love, and prosperity. I feel that this is the first step to that world. I feel that I must be the change I wish to see in the world. So I implore you all to vote yes on HB-3365. Let us show future generations we care about their future, and that we will do everything we can to give them the best lives

possible. Thank you for your time.

Gabriel Burke, Churchill High School, Eugene.