

Submitter: Kitty Lee Anderson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3365

Hello, my name is Kitty, and I'm a student at North Salem High School. I'm passionate about the issue of climate change, and I'm concerned about how it's affecting us, the people. Growing up in Oregon, I didn't notice much change at first, but recently, events such as the ice storms of 2021 and the rising temperatures each season have made me realize how serious the problem is. Both of my parents who are elderly suffer from rising heat temperatures each summer and It's only going to get warmer each year. These changes are not only harming people's health but are also impacting our forests and wildlife.

Climate education is important because it provides job opportunities for students like me after high school. Allowing students to be at the same level of understanding starting at kindergarten prepares and expands our options for the workforce after high school and college. Unfortunately, many schools in Oregon don't focus enough on climate issues, and at my school, the topic isn't given or understood by many students upfront. For instance, a program at my local beginner trade school (CTEC) that focused on agriculture, sustainability, and climate change has been removed, which is a lost opportunity for students to get more involved and educated.

I believe teaching students about climate change is essential, especially for those who have little knowledge of it. If this issue is so important, why isn't it discussed more? By educating students about these issues, we can clear up misinformation and ensure that everyone understands what's happening. If students aren't informed about climate change, how can they help solve the problem?

I hope that through this bill, schools will teach more students about climate justice and the current state of the world by incorporating how climate change can be multidisciplinary in unique ways. This will inspire students like me to become more involved in the fight against climate change and its effects. Climate change isn't going to disappear anytime soon. It will only worsen unless we take action. I hope you'll consider my story and think about how students can play a crucial role in making the world a better place, one step at a time.

Thank you,
Kitty