

March 13, 2025

Dear Chair Neron and members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 3365. My name is Michael Allen.

I live in Florence on the beautiful Oregon Coast. My wife Pat and I founded the Florence Climate Emergency Campaign 5 1/2 years ago with a goal to expand climate education in our Siuslaw School District.

We strongly support HB 3365 which will help realize our goal by expanding climate education and integrating it into all core subject areas from K to 12th grade.

I clearly recognized the need for more climate education when I substituted as a teacher in all grade levels in the Siuslaw School District. At the high school I learned about the results of a climate survey given by a biology teacher to an advanced biology class. The results were disappointing. More than half the class could not identify three fossil fuels responsible for global warming.

As my concern grew I worked with several high school students to find a sponsor and form an Environmental Club at their school. This is a start, but not enough. To be ready for a world threatened by climate change their education must start in kindergarten and continue throughout their school years.

Integrating climate education into all the core subjects will reinforce that learning. For some it may lead to a career that may benefit us all. For many it will relieve the climate anxiety they suffer because of a lack of knowledge.

Governments have human rights obligations to its kids, to its citizens, and to its primary purpose as a government. Children have rights. A life and death one is the right to a healthy environment and a stable climate.

The State of Oregon has human rights obligations. Our founding document, The Declaration of Independence states, "To secure these rights governments are instituted." Furthermore, given the new federal government situation, the burden is now on state and local governments.

Please vote for HB 3365 which called for Comprehensive Climate Change Education for all of our students.

Thank you in advance for your leadership in making Oregon one of the few states to legislate this most important climate education for our children.

Sincerely,

Michael Allen

Florence

Florence Climate Emergency Campaign, founder and co-leader

Elders Climate Action Oregon Chapter, founder and co-leader