

Submitter: Ella Estey  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3365

Dear Chair Neron and members of the House Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 3365. My name is Ella Estey and I am a current student at the University of Oregon. I am an educational foundations major with the goal of becoming an elementary school teacher in the near future.

I strongly support HB 3365 - which seeks to expand and integrate climate change instruction across all K-12 core subject areas. I have grown up very close to and involved in the nature around me, especially in the summers. I spend my time between Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, all of which are areas where fires have begun to creep in during the late summer months. The fires have completely changed the way I am able to spend my time in the summer. What once was me enjoying every last second of nature as possible now looks like having to stay indoors due to air quality. My biggest worry is that future generations won't be able to experience the outdoors in the same way that I was/am able to. I personally don't remember learning about climate change in school which made this adjustment very scary and unpredictable for me. I firmly believe that if I had been introduced to these changes in school I would feel much more mentally, emotionally, and physically prepared to deal with the repercussions of climate change.

I think it's important for all Oregon students to learn about climate change so that they are prepared to respond accordingly to any weather disasters to come. I also think it is important that they are equipped with tools and strategies to combat climate change and make a positive impact on their community. With climate education incorporated into the curriculum, students would benefit by feeling more confident in the future of our planet. It is important for Oregon students to learn about climate change before high school and as early as elementary school because the earlier you learn about it the earlier you care. Introducing this topic to young students also makes it more likely that they will maintain engagement and motivation to take action as they grow older.

Supporting this is the right action for this moment because climate change is an urgent issue and the more people educated the more likely change will come. Students have the right to learn about and be prepared for their future. They also have the right to empowerment and the knowledge that they can make real change for the world.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB 3365- Comprehensive Climate Change Education in Oregon schools.

Thank you for your support of HB 3365! It is time for Oregon to take leadership in becoming the second state to legislate comprehensive climate education.

Sincerely,

Ella Estey  
Eugene, OR