

Dear Chair Neron and members of the House Education Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 3365. My name is Gracyn Feuerstein, I live in Salem and am an Environmental Science major at Willamette University. I strongly support HB 3365 - which seeks to expand and integrate climate change instruction across all K-12 core subject areas (language arts, sciences, mathematics, social studies, health, physical education and the arts).

Every year climate change gets worse, here in Oregon we are seeing new temperature highs during the summer and wildfires decimating large areas. I personally know many people who have lost homes and livelihoods because of the fires exacerbated by climate change.

I learned very little about climate change in school, it wasn't the focus of any curriculums and the only time it was truly taught was because a physics teacher felt like it. As someone interested in environmental science I did my own research, but without an adult I trusted helping me along I often felt confused and overwhelmed. By making climate change a part of the regular school curriculum it makes a safe and comfortable space where students can learn about it without becoming overwhelmed by how big an issue climate change is. Misinformation is rampant on the internet, having a trusted educator be the one to inform students ensures they are getting the best education about an important topic.

Ensuring students are taught about this issue is of great importance, people need to understand the threat that climate change poses and integrating it into existing curriculums is the perfect way to do that. By voting in favor of this bill you highlight the importance of proper education for new generations. Climate change isn't going away, and the best way to combat it is to show people the dangers.

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,  
Gracyn Feuerstein