

Submitter: Mareshet Pulliam
On Behalf Of: Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3365

My name is Mareshet Pulliam, and I am a student at Willamette University. I urge you to support HB3365. HB3365 stresses the importance of implementing climate education within Oregon public schools.

Students are **NOT** unaware of what is happening with our rapidly changing climate and the uncertainty within their futures. What we need to do for students is to better prepare them with all the knowledge so that they can be equipped to address their future and feel empowered in their informed decisions. We need to give students an understanding of everyone's reality of rising temperatures, rising sea levels, extreme weather, and more. While these events are scary, being more educated on them allows students to develop personal connections to solutions. We need to offer the tools and resources, and students themselves agree on this. **In the U.S., more than 86 percent of teachers and 84 percent of parents support climate change education in schools.** These students who are already at the forefront of climate action don't need further inaction from our government.

As someone who attended public school all through K-12, I remember the value that science classes had in helping me understand climate change. I became informed about my impact and how I could work to create solutions. My teachers found ways to engage their students in ways that made sense to the level of the students. The curriculum offered field trips to science centers where we learned from specialists in their field. There are many ways climate education can be approached, and we can provide creative methods that motivate students to be a part of the solution. As people in power who hold the future of their education, please consider what these students require and if that is creating barriers or setting them up for success.

The thought of opposition to educating young people of the future to be careless and irresponsible. If we don't take action now, we will be failing these students who are experiencing climate change. Please support HB3365 and empower these students through climate education.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mareshet Pulliam