

Submitter: Cecilia Fowler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR28

I strongly support a referral for an amendment establishing a fundamental right to a clean, safe and healthy environment. As a school psychologist, I see the critical impact the environment has on children's development and growth. When children are able to grow and explore in a safe, healthy, and clean environment, they are able to better understand themselves and better relate with the people, beings, and land around them. For children and adults, our physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being is deeply tied to access to safe, natural spaces as well as clean air, water, and food. When this is endangered, not only do individuals suffer the ill effects of negative physical and social/emotional symptoms, it also has an adverse cascading cost to our community functioning as a whole. Amending the constitution to guarantee a healthy environment for all Oregonians is one way to work to safeguard our children and community as a whole. This seems especially crucial at a time when our community needs to advocate for our values, protect our children, and honor our deeply intertwined relationship with the environment.