

# Oregon Council for the Social Studies

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May 7, 2024

Dear Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee,

I am Dr. Jenoge Khatter, President of the Oregon Council for the Social Studies. I am writing to urge your support for the amended House Bill 3365. This bill is a product of a dedicated task force organized by retired Senator Michael Dembrow after Senate Bill 854 stalled in this committee two years ago, demonstrating a continued commitment to this crucial issue. This draft statewide framework for climate change education was generated by that task force: [tinyurl.com/23stfr](https://tinyurl.com/23stfr)

The proposed amendment ensures climate change instruction within core academic standards. It represents a significant and positive shift. HB 3365 directly aligns with the Oregon Department of Education's goals by fostering Social Science Essential Disciplinary Practices such as developing critical inquiry skills and constructing well-reasoned arguments regarding complex societal issues. By integrating climate change education across subjects, this bill empowers students to analyze the causes and effects of this global challenge and to actively participate in developing strategies for mitigation, adaptation, and community resilience – key elements of informed civic action.

Furthermore, HB 3365 supports the ODE's emphasis on Transformative Social Emotional Learning by creating a space for students to explore the societal impacts of climate change, including issues of justice and equity, and to develop empathy for diverse perspectives. It also answers ODE's call for inclusive social science by ensuring that future standards can incorporate culturally relevant examples and the perspectives of traditionally underrepresented groups in the context of climate change and sustainability.

Ultimately, HB 3365 is a vital step towards equipping Oregon's students with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary to thrive in a changing world and to contribute to a more just and sustainable future, directly supporting the broader goals of the Oregon Department of Education. We strongly urge your favorable consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jenoge Khatter

President, Oregon Council for the Social Studies