

Submitter: Karen Wolfgang

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3365

Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber, esteemed members of the committee.

My name is Karen Wolfgang, and I was born and raised in Portland. I am now a parent of two high school students in East Portland at Centennial High School (how did that happen? time flies!). I am the Executive Director of the CO2 Foundation (<https://co2foundation.org/>) and co-founder of Oregon Climate Action Hub (<https://orclimatehub.org/>).

I have a Masters in Educational Leadership, and I've taught but never had my own classroom. Those who do command my utmost respect: day in and day out, trying to find ways to help students understand themselves, engage with each other, and navigate our hyperspeed world.

Science is the best way that we have of collectively investigating and making sense of the natural and built environment. It's not a perfect endeavor – nothing we humans do is – but we've got the basic science in this arena essentially nailed down. The climate is changing, fast.

And our children deserve to learn about it, not just in science but across subject areas.

Why else do we have education but to empower the next generation to work together to navigate the next era? There are contenders for other important things to make sure all our kids learn about...but this one's the big one. Nothing will shape their lives more systemically, across the board, than the enormous changes unleashed by our use of fossil fuels for energy (and everything else).

Not only is it important for us as adults and decision-makers to give them the tools to grapple with that for their own sake, but we need them to learn about it for all of our sakes.

We face unprecedented upheaval, and we need all of us to have a good foundation of knowledge and understand the options available locally and globally to act. We need to be clear about the menu of options and help kids develop the skills to bring their time and talents to all three areas of the climate triad: mitigation, adaptation, and restoration.

I urge you to move this bill along. Thank you.