

Submitter:

Krista Rossow

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3365

I am writing to show my support for HB3365. To not teach future generations about climate change is to ignore the elephant in the room, which is affecting everyone on this planet. Blindfolding future generations to a problem that touches each and every one of us is wildly reckless. We would be doing a disservice to all living beings and all future generations by not providing educational content in schools about climate change.

I work as a professional travel photographer and educator and have had the great privilege of traveling to our planet's most remote and pristine areas. I've seen climate change firsthand. For example, I've worked in Antarctica since 2017, and I've seen how penguin colonies are affected by climate change. I have seen how krill populations are diminishing without adequate sea ice cover during the Antarctic winter, which has a ripple effect on the entire food chain.

It boggles my mind that in any state, but especially in Oregon, where we have such valuable natural resources, teaching climate change is even up for debate. I strongly support HB 3365 because it will give Oregon students the knowledge and skills they need to face the challenges of climate change. Sending a student into this world without education on climate change is like sending a soldier unequipped into war. The only way we can hope to turn the tide on climate change is through education. I urge you to pass this bill without hesitation.