

Submitter: Kate Cappalonga

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4112

My name is Kate Cappalonga and I am a high school senior at Central Catholic High School. I am testifying about increasing funding for Outdoor School. As a Student Leader, I have noticed a big change in how the program is run before and after funding changes were made, and believe it would be beneficial to increase funding.

Before the funding changes, Outdoor School ran Sunday through Friday, giving the sixth graders time to spend an entire day on each field study and the opportunity to learn as much as possible. After the funding changes, Outdoor School runs Tuesday through Friday, meaning that sixth graders only get half of a day on each field study. This is not enough time as stations end up getting skipped and the sixth graders miss out on learning opportunities.

Outdoor School isn't just an extended field trip. The climate crisis has not been improving, and something needs to be done about it. Outdoor School educates the next generation about the environment and all it does, consequently fostering mindsets which care for the environment. By informing and inspiring sixth graders, Outdoor School actively works to protect and preserve the environment. So, if we want to improve the climate crisis, we should be actively working to improve Outdoor School by increasing funding to restore the full week and ensure that sixth graders get the experience to help them become the environmental leaders of the next generation.

Thank you for your consideration.