

Submitter: Sam Hart
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB854

Thank you Chair Dembrow and members of the committee. My name is Sam Hart and I am a 10th grade student at the Early College High School.

I am here today testifying in support of SB 854, which would require each school district to develop a written plan establishing climate change instructional programs for K-12 grades by June 1, 2026.

I'm lucky enough to have been given the opportunity to attend middle and high schools with teachers that value climate education- but I'm an outlier. I've been amazed at how many of my peers are unaware of the devastating consequences of climate change, simply because they didn't receive climate education in school.

We are the generation that will deal with the consequences of climate change. We are the ones expected to fix things, to undo the damage of earlier generations. And we cannot do that unless we're provided with this critical education.

SB 854 will make sure students all across Oregon are taught about climate change. It's a simple requirement that will change so many lives. The rising generation is smart. We care and want to take action. We just need the right tools, and education is a huge one.

I urge you to support this bill, to listen to the voices of the youth and prioritize our access to equitable climate justice education.

Thank you for your time and allowing me the chance to share.