

Submitter: Casey Moran  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB854

Hi. My name is Casey Moran, I'm a senior and my pronouns are she/they. I am currently in Green Team and took our school's new Sustainability class last semester. My journey to becoming more educated about climate change started in my sophomore year in 2021. I saw my community in darkness due to an extreme winter and the sky turning orange with the air quality worsening due to wildfires. The extremely icy winter caused many in my community and surrounding areas including my family to lose power. It was scary not knowing what was going to happen and just having to stay inside and react as things came up. On the opposite end, the wildfires of 2021 made going outside at all a bad idea. I remember wondering if I was going to have to pack up my house in a matter of seconds and evacuate. Some of my teachers even had to cancel zoom meetings due to the evacuations and health risks. It was a scary feeling.

Those extreme weather events were my introduction to the idea that climate change was not just something that you learned about once in a science textbook and then tucked away never to be worried about again. No. I learned it was instead, a growing and pressing issue, that I felt could do more about. Sure, I had heard about climate change before, but it had never directly affected me, so I never felt the need to pay attention to it.

I wanted to be able to do something or be helpful in some way. So, this year I signed up for sustainability and joined the Green team. I immediately loved what the class and club were about. I joined the part of the class and club that was aspiring for change. I joined the climate literacy group in class and found out about the bill we are here about today. I loved the idea that climate change could potentially become something that wouldn't only be brought up in a science class. I like that this bill would equip students with the skills to face challenges associated with ongoing climate change efforts and how it aims to develop students' respect for cultural diversity and the importance of protecting international human rights regarding climate.

In my senior english class we also started a book the focuses on the topic of climate change called The Children's Bible by Lydia Millet. Before we started reading the book we read articles, watched videos, and had discussions. It has been an amazing experience. Now that one of my teachers has taken it on herself to teach us to the best of her ability about the real world and a hypothetical climate crisis. It is vital and extremely important that we as a state recognize how dire our climate crisis is and realize that now we have a chance to change and to inspire future change.