

Submitter: J Ward
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3365

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of HB3365 proposing an interdisciplinary approach to sustainability and climate change across subject areas. I teach as part of a magnet program that focuses on environmental education. We teach two multi-age classrooms (grades K-2 and 3-5), and we do a lot within our K-5 program to support environmental literacy and promote stewardship practices. We have built a revolving curriculum that incorporates all of the elementary science and social science standards to deliver in a spiral method, giving students a cursory view of topics in the primary grades and then a deeper investigation in the upper elementary grades. We feel that the effects of climate change are integral to the conversations we have with students around science and the environment. Our goal is to help students be aware of the effect humans have had on our planet so that our future leaders will be caring and thoughtful of the planet we all occupy. Part of our program also centers around project-based learning, which encourages students to guide the direction of their learning, as well as some form of public presentation of their learning. We have encountered mixed support throughout the years on actionable items, such as participation in a worldwide climate rally, for fear of involving schools in a "political" topic of conversation. Were HB3365 to be passed, educators would be protected in teaching the science of climate change. There are issues such as evolution that are also politically and ideologically charged but still remain as facts that Oregon has shown to be important in teaching our students. HB 3365 is not adding an extra burden by asking teachers to add something else to the curriculum. Instead, it protects our ability to teach scientific facts to our students, even if they oppose the beliefs held by political leaders. Please support teachers teaching science and facts in the classroom by supporting HB3365. Thank you.