

Testimony of Jennifer Rudolph

In Support of H-7275, The Climate Literacy Act  
House Committee on Education  
Wednesday, February 16, 2022

Dear Chairwoman Cano and Chairman McNamara,

I support The Climate Literacy Act, as introduced by Senators Lawson, Euer, DiMario, Valverde, Cano, Kallman, Gallo, Burke, Miller, and Sosnowski (S-2039) and Representatives Cortvriend, Carson, Bennett, Kislak, Donovan, Caldwell, Speakman, Amore, Fogarty, and Tanzi (H-7275).

State leaders have made significant investments to address the ongoing impacts of our changing climate, including those set forth in the Act on Climate, which sets mandatory, enforceable climate emissions reduction goals leading the state to achieve net-zero emissions economy-wide by 2050. The Climate Literacy Act was developed in response to these statewide initiatives so that our future generations will be equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to uphold these commitments and protect our environment.

Passing this legislation is the first step towards ensuring that upon graduation from high school, all Rhode Island students attending public schools (or other schools managed and controlled by the state) are prepared to embrace our growing green and blue economies, take action towards addressing environmental challenges, and be civically engaged with climate and environmental policies.

Climate change education is supported by the majority of Rhode Island parents and teachers. Climate change education provides transformative learning experiences that provide a variety of benefits to students such as an improvement in academic performance (including test scores), critical thinking skills, and personal growth and life-building skills such as confidence and autonomy.

**Please support The Climate Literacy Act** and ensure that we are preparing Rhode Island students for success. Thank you for your consideration.

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