

Testimony in opposition of H 7892

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To Chair McNamara and members of the House Education Committee

I submit testimony in **opposition** of H 7892. I find it odd that the sponsors of this bill feel compelled to prioritize formal education on the risk of wildfires to all school children in RI. While the risks of wildfires are always possible, the existential threats of climate change (sea level rise, flooding, coastal erosion, and extreme heat) are the more important topic that students (and all RI residents) should be educated on much more than is happening today.

I would ask the sponsors of this bill to explain why wildfire education for K-12 students should be favored over more general climate change and climate resilience education? Why students in Providence/Cranston/Warwick..., and in every coastal community and city/coastal school district should spend precious school time learning about one specific effect of climate change (wildfires), while their communities continue experiencing greater threats from sea level rise, flooding (coastal and urban) and extreme heat and humidity events?

If you want to suggest a new curriculum for all K-12 RI kids, make it about **Climate Change**. Make it all encompassing (and not just about wildfires) and prepare students for the disastrous effects of the climate emergency here today, and which they will inherit and must (somehow) deal with just to survive.

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