

Dozens of teenagers converging on Capitol Hill holding signs and banners with slogans like “We Want Green Jobs” makes for an attractive media event. But drawing press was only part of the goal of student speeches referencing the recent [UN-IPCC report](#) underscoring climate change as one of the most pressing issues facing our planet.

Climate Education Bills

The students were gathered in Washington, D.C., to present bills for universal comprehensive [climate education](#) and [mental health support](#) for youth impacted by climate change. Rep. Barbara Lee (D, Ca) introduced [education bill](#) H.Res.262 to the House, where it was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce. The bill supports the integration of interdisciplinary, solution-based climate education curricula into K-12 schools in all states and Washington, D.C. If passed, it would require funding for the implementation of climate education curricula. It would also create an Office of Climate Literacy and Career Development and a Climate Education Task Force in the Department of Education.

Rep. Mike Thompson (D, Ca) introduced the youth [mental health bill](#) H.Res.259, which has been referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. It is the first piece of legislation utilizing the [research](#) on youth climate anxiety and the disproportionate impact of climate mental health issues on BIPOC youth. This bill calls for action on climate change and education, with specific support for the expansion of funding for climate-related projects that benefit the mental health and well-being of youth.



You can [watch the video of the Youth Voices for Climate Education & Mental Health event](#) on Facebook.

So far, neither committee has taken any action on these bills. Both teens and adults can write their [representatives in Congress](#), as well as members of the relevant committees, to support this legislation. (There’s a [template](#) to make it easy.) Youth can also support the two bills by joining [virtual meetings](#) with members of Congress.

Schools for Climate Action Network

The bills and their associated press conference were the result of a collaboration between two organizations: [Moms Clean Air Force](#) and [Schools for Climate Action](#). Moms Clean Air Force is a community of parents working to eliminate air pollution. Recognizing that [carbon is also a pollutant](#), their work includes climate action.



Schools for Climate Action is a non-partisan, grassroots ^{CLOSE} youth-focused campaign to empower school communities to advocate for elected officials to combat the climate crisis. They provide free online resources to help teachers introduce [climate education](#) and [environmental justice](#) in their classrooms. Their web page includes step-by-step instructions that anyone in the school community can use to guide a campaign to pass a [school board climate action resolution](#). And they provide [resources](#) that teachers, parents, and students can use to lobby their school boards and other educational organizations to take action on a variety of climate-related issues.



The education bill supports the integration of interdisciplinary, solution-based climate education curricula into K-12 schools in all states and Washington, D.C. The mental health bill is the first legislation addressing youth climate anxiety and the disproportionate impact of climate mental health issues on BIPOC youth.

[Smoke resilience](#) is particularly relevant to the organization's home state of California, but it is increasingly important in other states, too. Once a summer issue, peak wildfire season now coincides with back-to-school season. The [smoke resilience campaign](#) calls on school districts to pursue funding and support resiliency measures such as infrastructure improvements and climate readiness planning.

The materials provided for the [#ElectrifyEverything](#) campaign are meant to enable students and supportive adults to guide their school board to support district-wide [electrification](#). Recognizing the need for clean [school buses](#), they provided links to pursue zero-emission and low-emission school bus rebates during the [open funding period](#) last year.

Besides working with their local school board, youth can support Climate Action Network [campaigns](#) through [social media](#) or by submitting climate-related [artwork](#). Whether they work within the network or on their own, [#YouthCanWriteClimatePolicy](#).

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