

Senate Education

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SB25-027 Trauma-Informed School Safety Practices

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Jessie Yan For themselves	<p>Dear Committee Members,</p> <p>My name is Jessie Yan. I am a freshman at Fairview High School in Boulder and a member of the Sunrise Movement. I stand for the bill on Trauma-Informed School Safety Practices. Climate disasters have affected students across Colorado, increasing distress, fear, anxiety, and depression. This impairs long-term mental health and exacerbates the powerlessness students feel when faced by the climate crisis. Implementing disaster plans is a mechanism to ensure students' security. The Marshall Fire displaced 900 BVSD students and 100 teachers, and passing this bill can prepare schools to help affected students, regardless of whether the fire occurred in or outside school. We observed how quickly things can change when a disaster strikes, and plans are key to protecting our students, teachers, parents, and faculty. The Pew Charitable Trusts reports a 154% increase in the number of billion-dollar climate disasters in the past 20 years, showing no stop in sight.</p> <p>I urge you to vote for this bill. Your leadership will set the precedent to show we are ready to build a safer future for everybody and fight climate change. I appreciate your time and thank you for considering my testimony.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jessie Yan</p>
Emma Weber For Sunrise Movement Boulder Valley School District	<p>Dear Committee Members,</p> <p>My name is Emma Weber and I am a seventeen year old student in Boulder. I am a leader of Sunrise Movement Boulder Valley School District, a group of over 60 students advocating for climate justice in schools.</p> <p>We urge you to vote for this bill, as it essential to making schools safer places for students to learn. In the age of school shootings and climate disasters we must adapt in order to prioritize students' mental health. This bill would be an important step in making sure that students are adequately equipped to respond in the case of an emergency.</p>

	<p>We believe that the increased severity and frequency of climate disasters as a result of the climate crisis must be addressed in public schools. SB27 will aid in increasing the awareness and adaptation to this issue. Again, we urge you to vote for this bill and consider the perspective of Colorado students.</p> <p>Thank you so much for time.</p>
<p>Molly Weber For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Committee Members,</p> <p>I am a senior in high school in Boulder, and I am in strong support for the Trauma-Informed School Safety Practices bill.</p> <p>Every morning before school, I listen to the news, and I often hear about school shootings or climate disasters happening across the country. In the past years, I have seen similar events occur in my community. It astonishes me that even after there was a shooting at the King Soopers grocery store right next to my high school and a fire that burned many homes of the students at my school, there is still no discussion of how gun violence and the climate crisis has had a severe affect on students' mental health as well as a direct correspondence to the safety drills we practice in school. I often feel like my school district is avoiding discussing and acknowledging how much these threats have intensified and the implications for students and our well-being. Safety drills are conducted in a practical manner, without recognition of how fire drills and lock-down drills, specifically, are intended to prepare students and staff for an emotionally intense and frightening event that they may have trauma around.</p> <p>The majority of students at my school have had to evacuate their homes in the past few years due to the Marshall Fire or the NCAR fire, and for me personally, fire drills always bring up a fear and sadness. They remind me of how climate disasters are becoming more frequent and intense because of the climate crisis and putting communities like my own in danger. Fire drills have been especially emotionally challenging for me recently following the Los Angeles fires. One of my friends whom I care deeply about was evacuated, and I was worried for him and his safety. Now, so many of the places he loved are destroyed, and the emotional weight that comes with knowing this makes it harder for me to focus in school when I am reminded of the fires.</p> <p>I believe a work group developing best practices for school safety drills would be instrumental in making school a safe place where students' feelings and trauma are recognized and our mental health is supported.</p> <p>Thank you for time and consideration, Molly Weber</p>

<p>Hannah Kim For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Committee Members,</p> <p>My name is Hannah, I'm 18 years old, I live in Boulder, and I'm a senior at Fairview High School.</p> <p>With President Trump's intention's to increase drilling and production of oil and gas, the impacts of climate change intensified natural disasters- like the LA fires, and with the doomsday clock only 89 seconds away from midnight, passing climate aware climate legislation is now more important than ever. As legislators, you have the power to pass and implement these climate sensitive actions, and you have the power to implement these green policies on a larger scale, that much of our concerned society does not have the power to do. In my Freshman year, when several fires burned in close proximity to my home, my eyes were opened to the fact that no one, and no location is exempt from the harsh realities of the climate crisis, and that even the wealthier, more privileged places like the Pacific Palisades and Boulder County are subject to devastation. We must act fast. Passing any climate legislation is a step into the right direction, and this bill is necessary because there is a constantly increasing population of students who, like me are feeling overwhelmed and anxious with the state of our society, ranging from local disasters to new national policies. A bill supporting climate disaster plans, as well as trauma informed safety drills would help lower the stress of students, while also satisfying the need for climate policy within Colorado's schools. With the increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters, and the unprecedented amount of school shootings in recent years, passing a bill that includes these things is more important than ever before.</p>
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