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March 10, 2022

Representative Leanne Krueger  
1300 E. MacDade Boulevard  
Suite 1  
Folsom, PA 19033

Dear Representative Krueger,

We write this letter urging you to co-sponsor H.R.2310, the Climate Change Education Act. By doing so, you will aid its advancement in the legislative process and thus play a pivotal role in providing comprehensive climate change education for America's youth. First and foremost, this is a bill that declares the evidence for human-induced climate change to be both overwhelming and undeniable. As you may know, it is of utmost importance that we reduce our carbon emissions by 2040 in order for the planet to remain habitable as is.<sup>1</sup> While this date might feel far away, it is a pressing deadline for us because this is our problem to inherit; we are both today's youth and future. As the next generation that will take on this responsibility, we view that it is imperative for young people to receive the education that will allow us to tackle this global crisis. In order to reach this goal, it is vital that constituents are aware of this issue and prepared to take action. As a team of young women connected by our concern for the environment and our belief in the change-making power of education and policy, we simply ask that you make this goal achievable by co-sponsoring the Climate Change Education Act.

Under this bill, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will establish a Climate Change Education Program. This program would aim to improve the climate literacy of Americans; apply scientific and technological discoveries for learning opportunities for all; and help people better understand technologies and programs relating to climate change, environmental justice, and more. There would also be an extensive grant program for climate change education—covering state educational agencies, universities, professional associations and academic disciplinary societies, and youth corps organizations.

The lack of education surrounding the global climate crisis has become strikingly and painfully apparent to us as students. In college, we are only now properly covering the basics of this issue in our environmental studies course. That feels overwhelmingly *wrong*, not to mention upsetting

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<sup>1</sup>Bloomberg, "Global Warming Will Hit 1.5 Degrees by 2040, UN IPCC Report Warns." *The Business of Fashion*, The Business of Fashion, November 19, 2021. <https://www.businessoffashion.com/news/sustainability/global-warming-will-hit-15-degrees-by-2040-without-drastic-cut-to-greenhouse-gas-emissions-un-ipcc-report-warns/>.

and frustrating. Back in our home states, we have all experienced the harsh reality of extreme weather events and their impacts. We have endured evacuations and sheltering-in-place due to choking wildfires, sweeping hurricanes, and violent tornadoes—on both the East and West coastlines—yet none of our schools are required to address the root cause of these devastating weather events: climate change. Our climate crisis is related to a concerning lack of public awareness, and it is up to us as the next generation of leaders to step up and combat this existential threat. However, this will not happen unless we are taught about it in the first place. By co-sponsoring the Climate Change Education Act, you, as our representative, can play your part in making this happen. All in all, we believe in the power of education. We write to you as a first-generation college student, public high school graduates, and young people who have taken the extra initiative to learn about climate change. We believe in education as a transformative force that can help save this planet, and we hope you do too.

We are grateful for and inspired by all the work you have accomplished through your involvement on the Environmental Resources and Energy committee and activities like your co-sponsorship of the “School Director Recognition Month.” You co-sponsored this bill because you, as both a representative and a parent, understand the importance of schools and their responsibility in developing the minds of the younger members of our generation. We ask that you co-sponsor H.R.2310 in accordance with your duty to protect our health and our rights, specifically our right to know what is happening to the world around us.

In order to restore the well-being of our planet, it is imperative that we take action now. We must act for the possibility of a better future. We must act for an American education system that will wholly support its students in their learning of global issues. We live in a country where only 30 percent of middle school and 45 percent of high school science teachers recognize the scientific consensus on climate change, where 40 percent of teachers who integrate climate change into their science curriculum teach it inaccurately.<sup>2,3</sup> Research from Pennsylvania State University and the National Center for Science Education reveals that nearly half of all science teachers in the U.S. choose to not teach climate change—either because they deny the crisis itself or are trying to avoid potential conflict.<sup>4</sup> The lack of proper climate change education is a pressing national problem, and the Climate Change Education Act is a huge step in the right direction. Climate change is not a crisis we can ignore. It is essential that we use our schools today to prevent the larger climate-change-induced threats of tomorrow.

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<sup>2</sup>Abigail Cheskis, Jennifer Marlon, Xinran Wang, and Anthony Leiserowitz, “Americans Support Teaching Children About Global Warming” *Yale Program on Climate Change Communication*, Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, April 27, 2020. <https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/publications/americans-support-teaching-children-global-warming/>.

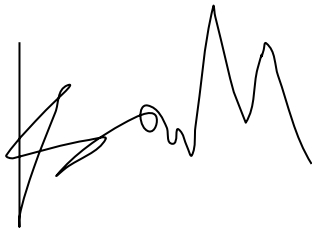
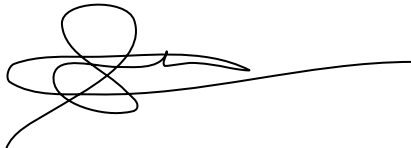
<sup>3</sup>Annika Larson, “Climate Change Education Is Failing Our Youth,” *State of the Planet*, Columbia Climate School, December 17, 2021. <https://news.climate.columbia.edu/2021/12/17/climate-change-education-is-failing-our-youth/>.

<sup>4</sup>Eric Plutzer, A. Lee Hannah, Joshua Rosenau, Mark S. McCaffrey, Minda Berbeco, Ann H. Reid, “Mixed Messages: How Climate is Taught in America’s Schools”, *National Center for Science Education*, Oakland, CA, <http://ncse.com/files/MixedMessages.pdf>.

As a representative, we ask that you advocate for those who cannot themselves. We hope that you are moved to take action on behalf of your students in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. We look forward to hearing back about co-sponsorship of the Climate Change Education Act, and we wish you a good day. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Aqua Withers Carello*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kayla Miller' with a stylized '25' at the end.A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Katie Ryu' with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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