



Attachment 9

6352 E. Escarpment  
Boise, Idaho 83716  
February 23, 2017

To: Sen. Dean Mortimer, Chairman  
Sen. Steven Thayn, Vice Chairmen  
Members of the Senate Education Committee

From: Kathy Reavy, Ph.D., MSN, BSN, RN  
Professor Emerita  
Boise State University

**Re: Testimony against the Removal of Climate Change Information  
from the Idaho Science Education Curriculum**

Good Afternoon, Chairman Mortimer and Committee Members,

My name is Dr. Kathy Reavy and I am testifying against the removal of climate change information from the Idaho science curriculum. I am a Professor Emerita from Boise State University where I taught nursing education. I am also on the Board of Directors of the Boise Area Branch of the American Assn. of University Women (AAUW).

The inherent effects of climate change are producing medical problems that are already evident and addressed in bona fide medical literature. Understanding the complexities of the climate problem will prepare Idaho children to be proactive in protecting their personal and family's health and prepare them for success at any university or college in the United States or elsewhere.

Supporting best evidence related to science education has benefits far into the futures of our children. Many of today's young people may select a career in medicine or nursing. Our children must be prepared with the critical thinking skills to understand and identify changes to human health caused by the consequences of increased heat, increased precipitation, and increased intensity of extreme weather.

A 2016 report by the U.S. government analyzed the impact of these changes on human health. Increased temperatures will increase heat stroke, dehydration, and cerebrovascular accident (stroke). Increased temperatures may disproportionately



affect athletes, low-income households, children, and older adults. Warmer temperatures and increased precipitation will increase growing periods for insects and rodents and their abilities to carry diseases greater distances.

We are already seeing increases in asthma and rare diseases such as the Hantavirus. Hantavirus is spread by rodents and can ultimately lead to death because of pulmonary edema.

Currently, in Idaho the wildfire season is elongating because of warmer temperatures. As a result, the dry pines become easier for pine beetle infestation, thereby creating a cycle of dead trees and bigger fires. Fires subsequently increase poor air qualities that in turn enhance asthma and other breathing difficulties through air particulates.

Changing objective curriculum guidelines to fit a subjective value can have serious consequences. We need to use best evidence to benefit the children of Idaho. Let's educate our children to the fullest extent possible and prepare them for success in college.