

CONGRESSWOMAN BARBARA LEE
November 14th
1:30 – 5:00 pm
1302 Longworth House Office Building.
Member Day Testimony at Select Committee on Climate Crisis

Thank you, Madam Chair and thank you to the committee members for allowing me to testify today.

I am here to testify on HR 1880 and H. Res 574 and the urgent need to take up these bills in Congress. My bill and resolution will help to bring attention to two groups of people that I feel are often overlooked: women and students.

These bills also greatly reflect the mission of this select committee to put forward bold legislative ideas to help reduce greenhouse gas pollution, mitigate the human impact on climate change, and ensure our communities are resilient.

Specifically, H.R. 1880, the Women and Climate Change Act, will address the disproportionate effects that climate change has on women. As many of us know, women are the leader of their households and are responsible for providing necessities to their families. This puts them in a situation where they will feel the brunt of climate change.

Global warming creates additional responsibilities. Women may be forced to move their families out of a flood zone that was created because of the rising oceans. They may need to travel further to obtain water for children due to a drought created by rising temperatures.

Mothers around the world need to drastically adjust their lives and make sacrifices to ensure the safety and well-being of their families. This is why my bill is so important, because it would help bring attention to this very important issue.

My bill would also establish a working group within the US Department of State to help brainstorm potential solutions to address the disproportionate effects that climate change has on women and their families. We need America to be a leader in addressing the climate crisis that is disproportionately affecting women around the world.

I would also like to discuss my resolution on teaching climate change in schools, H.RES. 574. My resolution was inspired by students from the Sonoma Academy in California, who came to my office with a passion for more education on sustainability and global warming. They shared with me some of the resolutions that they have tried to pass at the state and local levels.

I was also inspired by Greta Thunberg, a climate activist from Sweden, who boldly skipped school to protest the need for more climate action. Her act of defiance has evolved into a movement and set precedent for a generation of climate activism – more than 25% of America students took action at the climate protests to urge us to address climate change.

In order to meaningfully act upon our changing climate, young people need education on its causes, consequences, and possible solutions.

American students also do not learn enough about climate change. We need to teach every young person the human impacts of climate change and how to address our warming planet before it is too late.

I would respectfully ask members of this committee and my colleagues in Congress to become cosponsors of H.R. 1880 – Women and Climate Change Act of 2019 and H.RES 574 – resolution on teaching climate change in schools.

And finally, I hope that this Select Committee will take these important bills up. Thank you again for allowing me to speak and for your leadership of this select committee.

Thank you, and I yield back.