



TO: House Committee on Education

RE: Support HB 4079

Chair Hudson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Maureen Hinman, and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon School-Based Health Alliance (OSBHA). OSBHA works with school-based health centers and other school health providers to center the wellness of children so they are healthy and able to learn. With that in mind, I am writing in strong support of HB 4079.

The actions taken by Immigration and Customs Enforcement are impacting the mental health of students. Full stop. Oregon is already facing a youth mental health crisis. We also already have a chronic absenteeism problem. When students are afraid to come to school, or are distracted by fear for themselves or their families, learning and well-being suffer.

Schools should be places of safety, stability, and care. Yet uncertainty around enforcement actions in and around schools undermines that foundation. This fear does not stop at students. School staff and community partners, including school-based health center providers, are also affected and put at risk when there are no clear protocols in place.

HB 4079 provides clarity, consistency, and common-sense expectations for communication and response. Having clear protocols helps keep students, staff, and partners safe, and helps schools remain focused on what they exist to do: support young people so they can learn, heal, and thrive.

I urge you to support HB 4079 and help ensure that Oregon schools remain places of safety and care for all students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maureen Hinman".

Maureen Hinman
Executive Director
Oregon School-Based Health Alliance