

Submitter: Amie Riley
On Behalf Of: 4079
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4079

Chair Hudson and members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Amie Riley, and I am the parent of a 7-year-old in Portland, Oregon. I am writing in strong support of HB 4079 to Safeguard Students and Families.

Families are living in fear, and children are carrying burdens no child should bear. My child came home last week and told me her friend is afraid to come to school. Her 2nd grade classmate is feeling as if she has to make the adult choice of attending class or keeping her mom safe. Children are discussing the possibility of masked men with guns entering their schools. This fear is not distant, and it affects our youngest learners. In my classes on campus at Portland State University, the same fear is present amongst our college students on public university campuses. Schools should be places of curiosity, growth, and belonging, not anxiety and dread.

HB 4079 provides a path forward. By establishing clear, consistent, and transparent communication expectations, it protects students, families, and staff. Every student, regardless of immigration status or the school they attend, deserves safety, dignity, and peace of mind. Inconsistent responses create unequal safety and erode trust, undermining both learning and well-being.

Since federal guidance designating schools as “sensitive areas” was rescinded in 2025, federal enforcement activity near school campuses has caused real disruptions, lockdowns, and heightened anxiety. Families hesitate to come to school, and children grow up fearful in places that should feel secure. HB 4079 addresses this harm directly by ensuring schools are prepared, informed, and able to respond appropriately while prioritizing student safety.

This bill reflects the voices of families, educators, and community organizations across Oregon. It is a community-led solution that strengthens our schools rather than divides them, and ensures students can focus on what matters most: learning, growing, and feeling safe in the spaces meant to nurture them.

I urge you to vote YES on HB 4079 and stand with Oregon students and families by keeping our schools safe, welcoming, and focused on education.

Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Amie Riley
Parent & Professor, Portland Oregon