

Submitter: Amy Gray
On Behalf Of: Arts in Education of the Gorge
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4079

TO: House Committee on Education

SUBJECT: Support HB 4079 to Safeguard Students and Families

Chair Hudson and all the members of the House Committee on Education

My name is Amy Gray and I work in the school district in Hood River Oregon. I am a parent, an educator and an administrator. I am writing in strong support of HB 4079 to Safeguard Students and Families.

Federal guidance designating schools as “sensitive areas” was rescinded in 2025 created uncertainty regarding on-campus ICE actions. Federal enforcement actions have increased in the areas around schools. In recent months schools have been forced to go into lockdown procedures, sometimes several schools in a single day.

Schools are hubs of learning, engagement and safety, and they must remain that way. Any time there is an incident involving law enforcement or unknown persons with access to weapons in or around school locations there must be clear process and communication.

I support HB 4079 because just today, Monday Feb 2nd 2026, me and a team of artists with Arts in Ed was meeting with teachers to plan our partnership for an arts-integration when our staff was made aware that ICE agents were seen in our community and it halted our planning process, became the focus of our attention and derailed our ability to connect and collaborate on the educational experiences of our students. How can we operate as a network of support and learning and build our schools on strong partnerships if we have to stop our work to protect our children from ICE? When we don't know if our students and families are going to be safe or in harms way we cannot prioritize learning and teaching.

This bill lays out proactive and reactive communication expectations to keep everyone safe. Consistent application and consistent communication is needed so that all students, parents and staff regardless of which school they attend, are able to be safe and informed when something happens in their community. Oregonians know when we are informed we can be stronger together.

HB 4079 is part of the 2026 Immigrant Justice Package and is backed by a broad coalition of immigrant justice advocates, civil liberties groups, unions, and community based organizations. I urge you to support these community-led policies to protect

the freedoms of all Oregonians.

Sincerely,
Amy Gray
Hood River, Oregon