

Submitter: Heavenly Coleman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4079

My name is Heavenly, and I live in Forest Grove. I am a student and resident in the community. 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Federal guidance designating schools as "sensitive areas" was rescinded in 2025 created uncertainty regarding on-campus ICE actions.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 a school location, there must be a clear process and communication.

I am a resident who believes that a community is only as strong as its most vulnerable members. Since the 2025 rescinding of "sensitive area" protections, I have watched families in my neighborhood become hesitant to engage with school activities or even drop their children off at the bus stop. I support HB 4079 because consistent application of safety protocols shouldn't depend on your zip code or your immigration status. This bill ensures that Oregon remains a place where all families can participate in public life without fear.

This bill lays out proactive and reactive communication expectations to keep everyone safe. Consistent application and consistent communication are 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 that 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,
Heavenly Coleman