

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 Karla Vazquez, and I currently reside in Beaverton, Oregon. I am a proud first-generation Mexican American educator serving as a Youth Advocate with Adelante Mujeres' Chicas program. I was born and raised in California and recently relocated to Washington County. As the daughter of two hardworking immigrants, I have been fortunate to grow up in community with people from diverse backgrounds. These experiences led me to pursue higher education, where I earned my bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of California.

My relocation to Oregon was intentional, and my decision to live in Washington County was ultimately influenced by the similarities to my Californian community. Kern County and Washington County share many parallels, most importantly their diversity and the immense potential of their youth. However, over the past year, that potential has been threatened by an increase in discriminatory and authoritarian attacks by Immigration and Customs Enforcement that have destabilized our communities.

I am writing in support of HB 4079. When federal guidance designating schools as "sensitive areas" was rescinded in 2025, it created uncertainty regarding on-campus ICE activity. Since then, federal enforcement actions have increased in the areas around schools. In recent months schools have been forced to go into lockdown, sometimes several schools in a single day.

Oregon's lack of clear, transparent procedures that protect OUR children only deepens the destabilization of our communities. A child should not have to sit through a math lesson wondering whether their parent will be there at dismissal. A child should not be instructed to hide in a dark classroom because there is heavily armed, masked men chasing a senora whose only "crime" was to wait for the bus to get to work. ***A child should not have to sit through social studies while they watch history repeat itself in real time.***

Education should be treated as a universal human right regardless of ones' intersectionality. Schools are meant to foster students' potential by creating safe, engaging learning environments, and they must remain that way. HB 4079 ensures schools know exactly how to respond, who to contact, and how to communicate directly with families during enforcement activity, without panic or inconsistency. I urge you to support these community-led legislation to protect the safety, dignity, and freedoms of all Oregonians.

Respectfully,

Karla Vazquez
Beaverton, Oregon