

House Committee on Education
RE: Support HB 4079 to Safeguard Students and Families



February 2nd, 2026

Chair Hudson and all Members of the Committee,

My name is Jasia Mosley and I am the Advocacy Manager at Next Up Action Fund. We work to build political power with young people to achieve a more just and equitable Oregon. As an organization that focuses on being a civic and political home for young people, it is vitally important for us to advocate for our communities to be safe and secure, especially in schools. That is why we are supporting HB 4079 to Safeguard Students and Families.

Federal guidance designating schools as “sensitive areas” was rescinded in 2025 creating uncertainty regarding on-campus ICE actions. In recent months schools have been forced to go into lockdown procedures, sometimes several schools in a single day. We have seen ICE presence near elementary schools in North Portland, high schools in Gresham, and even near district offices across Multnomah County. 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. **HB 4079 would require all school districts to have a plan in place to increase safety and transparency in communication with families around ICE raids that happen within their campuses.**

As an advocate working with high school students as well as having siblings and cousins still in school, I want to be able to tell them that they are protected by their schools and know that if incidents are happening on their campuses that could put them at risk, their families will know. **Our communities are afraid. We do not feel safe.** I have been spending nights and weekends having hard conversations with our vulnerable communities to create safety plans for unimaginable events such as having to plan who will be the guardian of their children in the event they are taken dropping their kids off at school, having to walk them through how to prepare their K-12 children on what to do if ICE comes to their schools. I am working with young people who are constantly asking me what they need to do if they go to school and fear that regardless of their status they could be harmed by ICE. Communities are exhausted from having to exist in a constant state of hyper vigilance and fear. **It is vitally important that you pass this policy so that families can restore trust in knowing their children's safety is being prioritized by not only their schools, but our state officials as well.**

Schools have many different processes for varying emergencies, but this bill would specify steps that schools need to take in response to federal immigration authority

on school property. HB 4079 lays out proactive and reactive communication expectations to keep everyone safe. Specifically making sure notice is sent out to not only students and families, but the surrounding community as well who would be at risk. This bill also outlines specific requirements of the detailed information that needs to be shared in these notices. Standardizing the processes of communication will ensure that all educators, students and families, no matter what school district, will be informed and prepared.

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,
Jasia Mosley
Advocacy Manager
Next Up Action Fund