

Submitter: Stephanie Morales  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4079

I am an architect of education spaces and through my work, know how meaningful, uplifting, and integral schools are to any community. They are meant to be places of learning, compassion, dignity, and hope. Currently, the practices in this country are making the opposite true. Families are not sending their children to school, nor leaving their homes, for fear of deportation. Increased violence against immigrant communities has made doing basic things an act of bravery. Schools, education facilities, and community centers should be safe for all community members to use, without fear for their safety. HB 4079 will allow the creation of safety protocols that will protect everyone. Immigrant families should not be targeted at all, let alone in public institutions meant to serve the public good. The violence against immigrants is not only traumatizing for the families experiencing this firsthand, but also to the witnesses to this atrocity, which include all children in the community. This act of oppression will have a lasting impact on this generation of students and needs to stop. Please support HB 4079 that can create statewide standards so schools can respond quickly, communicate transparently, and keep students and families safe.