

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

Hello, my name is Xochitl Angel and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am a former elementary school educator and am a proud member of my community. I am writing in strong support of HB 4079 to Safeguard Students and Families.

As a former elementary school educator, I saw firsthand the importance of creating a safe space for students in the classroom. I've also seen the violent tactics these agents use, by not having clear guidelines for staff to follow in situations like this, it puts our educators and students at risk of experiencing trauma by the hands of federal immigration authorities. By supporting HB 4079 we can add an extra guaranteed layer of protection that our students and staff deserve.

This bill ensures that school districts and schools have clear and consistent policies for responding to federal immigration authorities while respecting Oregon's sanctuary laws, student privacy, and due process. That clarity protects not only students and families, but also educators and administrators who are often placed in impossible situations without proper guidance. This is a way to ensure that the rights of students and staff are protected. When policies and procedures are clear it will help schools be able build trust with their communities and protect the privacy of students and their families.

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,

Xochitl Angel  
Portland, Oregon