

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 Ricardo Dominguez, and I live in Gresham, Oregon. I work for Latino Network as a program manager providing services in the Reynolds School District. 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Federal guidance designating schools as “sensitive areas” was rescinded in 2025 created uncertainty regarding on-campus ICE actions.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 school locations there must be clear process and communication.

Working directly with students in the Reynolds School District has reinforced the critical need for clear, precise protocols and effective communication with both students and their families. Schools must serve as safe spaces for all, and when a school fails to communicate, it creates unnecessary division between itself and the community. Students should feel secure and confident that during their learning experience, any potential threats will be communicated to them and their families promptly and appropriately.

The fear, terror, and uncertainty caused by ICE agents in our community are unacceptable. We cannot ignore the chilling impact of these agents, who disrupt lives and leave individuals to vanish without a trace. It is imperative that our schools improve their communication regarding any ICE presence on or near our campuses. This communication is crucial, it can mean the difference between a student returning home to discuss their day with their parents or arriving at an empty house, left wondering where their loved ones have gone.

Our students face a daunting reality when they have only hours, or a day or two, to navigate their lives after everything has changed due to ICE actions. This uncertainty could be eased by the school's proactive communication. We must continue to prioritize the safety of our students and families, as we never know who could be next. The responsibility lies with our schools to ensure that no child is left in uncertainty.

This bill lays out proactive and reactive communication expectations to keep everyone safe. Consistent application and consistent communication is 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 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,
Ricardo Dominguez
Gresham Oregon