

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

I am a community partner 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Federal guidance designating schools as “sensitive areas” was rescinded in 2025 created uncertainty regarding on-campus ICE actions.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.

I support HB 4079 because public school districts and institutions of higher education should have clear policies in place for how to respond when ICE agents enter school property or a campus. These policies should not only exist, but also be consistently followed. All staff should understand their responsibilities, including notifying families in a timely and appropriate manner. There should be no confusion or lack of communication. Families deserve to trust school districts and have peace of mind knowing that their students are protected. This process should reduce fear and uncertainty, not

create it. These times are hard enough. We should provide support to the families in our community.

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.