

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 Guadalupe Ramirez A. I live in Portland, OR I am a proud Mexican High school student. The reason I'm helping out the community is because I know how scary it can be to go to school and be scared that Immigration enforcement are outside taking people and how scary that they can take your parents away. 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Federal guidance designating schools as "sensitive areas" was rescinded in 2025 created uncertainty regarding on-campus ICE actions.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 a clear process and communication.

The reason I am writing this is because it is not right that ICE agents are outside schools waiting on students or parents that come to pick up their kids. Schools should be safe places for students. Students shouldn't be scared to come to school. Students, staff and families should be getting clear information about what's happening in the community at all times, especially during school hours. Recent events that happened at my school with immigration enforcement. One of our in-school social workers, who runs a club made up of latinos, was helping students and parents to know what was

going on. The club was helping organize with families on seeing how younger siblings, family members, or community members would make it home safely those days. What this showed was how our own latino/hispanic community were doing much more than other groups of people in a moment that we needed support because of the lack of communication and protocol.

This bill will help our schools so immigration enforcement can't be nowhere near our schools, and it will help for students to not be scared to come to school and be safe and getting their education. This bill is clear on how communication is key and how students, staff, families should be informed about what's happening or any incidents that are happening in Oregon so they can be informed and stay safe. My community is important to me. It is sad to hear the cry of my community and how we are getting impacted by this and how students are scared on a daily basis.

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,
Guadalupe Ramirez Alcantar