

Submitter: Alejandra Villanueva

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4079

Chair Hudson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Alejandra Villanueva, and I live in Cornelius, Oregon. I am a daughter, an educator, and a youth advocate working in both the Forest Grove and Hillsboro School Districts. I am writing in strong support of HB 4079 to Safeguard Students and Families.

In 2025, federal guidance designating schools as “sensitive areas” was rescinded, creating serious uncertainty around on-campus ICE actions. Since then, federal enforcement activity has increased in areas surrounding schools. In recent months, schools have been forced into lockdown procedures—sometimes multiple schools in a single day—causing fear and disruption for students, families, and staff.

Schools are hubs of learning, engagement, and safety, and they must remain that way. Any incident involving law enforcement or unknown individuals with access to weapons in or around school locations demands clear processes and transparent communication.

Our Brown, Latino, and Mexican communities—our families, my family—are living in constant fear. My eleven-year-old nephew wakes up every day afraid. We live with a knot in our throats, fearful of leaving our homes and being stopped by masked ICE agents who are taking our loved ones away. This is not a safe or happy life. It feels like we are living in a movie, not our own lives. We fear for our present and our future.

As an educator working closely with Latina youth, I see this fear in their eyes every day. Many students have stopped attending school and activities they once loved because they are afraid. Children should not live like this. These enforcement actions must stop invading our communities, our cities, and our state. We deserve to live safely and with dignity.

HB 4079 establishes clear, proactive, and reactive communication expectations to keep students, families, and staff safe. Consistent application and communication across schools are essential so that all families—regardless of where they live or which school they attend—are informed and protected. Oregonians know that when we are informed, we are stronger together.

HB 4079 is part of the 2026 Immigrant Justice Package and is supported 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 and stand up for the safety and freedoms of all Oregonians.

Sincerely,
Alejandra Villanueva
Cornelius, OR