

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 Carolina Gomez and I work at Parkrose high school and I live in Vancouver WA. 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Federal guidance designating schools as “sensitive areas” was rescinded in 2025 created uncertainty regarding on-campus ICE actions.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 to safeguard students and families. Students I work with often experience additional challenges and discrimination. Not having to worry about immigration should be granted to students. Throughout their daily life they worry about their families and their immigration status. School ought to be a safe space for students to study and for their parents to know their children are safe. Providing this basic measure would ease the minds of families and students in school. Additionally, there should be a clear line of direct communication to families and community partners when it comes to updates about security . They should be notified early on to best support those we work with for their safety. This would add security and a sense of safety and control which is essential for success.

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,
Carolina Gomez

**Thank you for supporting the
Immigrant Justice Package!**

