

February 4, 2026

House Committee on Education
Public Hearing
HB 4079

Chair Hudson, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share written comments related to HB 4079, a bill that requires school districts, community colleges, and public universities to adopt policies related to federal immigration enforcement activities on our campuses, including mandated notification requirements.

Let me begin by thanking Rep. Finger McDonald for reaching out to us about this legislation last fall and for her willingness to work with OCCA and our university colleagues to address changes to ensure institutions can comply with the bill's requirements consistent with existing state and federal laws. We continue to have a few concerns about some of the language in the -1 amendment which will make it challenging for community colleges to implement in a way that best serves our students and employees. This includes when notifications must be sent and how campus is defined. Specifically, we urge the committee to consider adding clarifying language to ensure that notifications are sent only when immigration enforcement activities are verified. In addition, because all college campuses are open access and include satellite locations, we recommend allowing each community college district to define campus boundaries that trigger notification requirements rather than using the federal Clery Act definitions.

Oregon's community colleges are committed to ensuring that students and employees who work and learn on our campuses do so in a safe and welcoming environment. Community colleges already have policies and procedures in place setting out the process employees must follow when federal immigration authorities request student information or attempt to access college facilities. The Attorney General's Model Policies Regarding Immigration have been helpful as colleges have updated and revised their procedures in the last year when the U.S. Department of Homeland Security rescinded the federal policy protecting sensitive spaces like churches and schools. Many of the colleges have shared resources and information with students and employees, so they understand their rights and responsibilities, and know where to access legal assistance. OCCA also created a page on our website that connects to college specific webpages and other state and national resources. As the situation has evolved over the last few months, the colleges have reviewed and revised their procedures and addressed concerns based on the needs of the communities they serve. This is an ongoing process and conversation with our communities.

We appreciate the revisions made to the bill in the -1 amendment and look forward to continuing to work with the committee and Rep. Finger McDonald to address any remaining issues.

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