

Submitter:

Jennifer Lomeli

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4114

My name is Jennifer, and I have served children and families from diverse cultural and racial backgrounds for over 15 years. I currently work in the Greater Albany Public School District as a Family Support Liaison. In this role, I support students and families by helping remove barriers so children can fully access their education and succeed in school.

Throughout my career, I have had the honor of working alongside many immigrant parents who are hardworking, compassionate, and deeply invested in their children's futures and their communities. However, since the recent increase in unlawful ICE detentions, the families I serve have experienced significant trauma and fear.

Students and families have shared with me their constant anxiety about leaving their homes, afraid they may be separated from their loved ones. Children worry daily about their parents' safety and fear that their parents may not be home when they return from school. Some parents have told me their children beg them not to leave the house for work, appointments, or basic responsibilities out of fear that they will be detained. No child should have to live with the fear that their family could be torn apart at any moment.

This climate of fear is not limited to immigrant families. U.S. citizens and lawful residents of color in our communities are also afraid of being racially profiled, questioned, or targeted simply because of how they look or the language they speak. This fear is deeply disruptive to families and has real consequences for students' emotional well-being and ability to learn.

The federal government should be protecting children and families—not causing harm, instability, and trauma that directly interferes with a child's ability to learn and thrive.

I am deeply concerned by reports that immigration enforcement agents are being encouraged to enter homes without warrants, in direct violation of constitutional protections. This is not acceptable. No one, including federal officials, should be above the law.

I urge you to support HB 4114 to ensure accountability and to uphold the rule of law. This bill is necessary to protect families, children, and communities in Oregon from unlawful actions that cause lasting harm.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jennifer Lomeli