

To: House Committee on Education
From: For All Families Oregon
Date: February 4, 2026
RE: HB 4079 - Safeguard Students and Families

Chair Hudson, Vice-Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and members of the Committee,

My name is Ivy Major-McDowall, and I'm the Care Advocacy Manager at For All Families Oregon (formerly Family Forward). We work collectively to educate and advocate for systems that elevate the vital work of care and caregiving in its many forms within our community. Our membership includes more than 35,000 parents, caregivers, and child care providers across our state. We urge your support of HB 4079 to Safeguard Students and Families.

When federal guidance that designated schools as "sensitive areas" was rescinded in 2025, it created fear and uncertainty among students, parents, family members, and school staff. **Many of the families we work with have children in both child care and K-12 schools—when one part of our care infrastructure is destabilized, it impacts the whole family.**

Since the federal policy change, 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. We are also witnessing concerning patterns nationwide. In Minnesota and other states, child care providers, particularly immigrant providers, are facing harassment, surveillance, and intimidation. While this bill addresses K-12 schools, these attacks on our care workforce underscore the need for clear protections and communication protocols.

Schools are hubs of learning, engagement and safety, and they must remain that way. Parents cannot go to work when they're worried about their children's safety at school. When schools are disrupted, families face impossible choices about their jobs, their children's education, and their financial stability. 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.

This bill lays out expectations for proactive and reactive communication to keep everyone safe. Consistent application and communication are needed so that all students, parents, and staff, regardless of which school they attend, can be safe and informed when something happens in their community. Oregonians know that 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 stand with community and protect the freedoms of all Oregonians.

Sincerely,



Ivy Major-McDowall
Care Advocacy Manager
For All Families Oregon