

Submitter: Crystal Weston
On Behalf Of: Crystal Weston- TTSD Board Member
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4079

Chair Hudson, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Crystal Weston, and I am submitting written testimony as an individual school board member at Tigard Tualatin School District in strong support of HB 4079 to Safeguard Students and Families.

Federal guidance designating schools as “sensitive areas” was rescinded in 2025, creating uncertainty and justified fear of ICE actions at schools. Subsequently, aggressive federal actions have increased in the areas around schools. Schools have been forced to go into lockdown procedures, sometimes several schools in a single day. Transportation services have been impacted. And children have missed school due to fear of masked agents who sometimes lack training and who operate under constantly changing opaque protocols.

Schools are central to our communities. It’s where we trust our children to learn, where they make their best friends, where they grow into their future selves. We have raised a generation of children under immense stress for families, and families should know they will have up to date information if unpredictable masked federal agents descend on our places of learning.

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 processes and communication, and a state effort will support school districts in thinking through orderly policies to often disorderly federal initiatives.

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.

Thank you so much for your time and efforts on these issues.

Sincerely,

Crystal Weston
Tigard Tualatin School District, Board Member