



Representative Lamar Wise
Oregon House District 48

HB 4079 - Safeguarding Students and Families

House Education | February 4th 2026, 8:00 AM

Good afternoon, Chair Hudson and members of the committee. For the record, I'm Representative Lamar Wise from SE Portland and North Clackamas. I'm proud to support HB 4079 to better safeguard our students and families.

In classrooms and communities across our state, children and families are afraid — and justifiably so. We are seeing dramatic drops in attendance from families unwilling to send their kids to school, afraid of being victimized by the increasingly violent and unlawful immigration enforcement raids targeting Oregonians.

Last year, the Trump administration rescinded previous federal guidance designating schools as “sensitive areas” barred from immigration enforcement. This has left our school communities vulnerable and stuck in currently unsurmountable information gaps: not knowing when raids are taking place near school grounds and lacking clear protocols for addressing incidents when they occur.

HB 4079 seeks to close these gaps by establishing clear standards for these procedures, laying out proactive and reactive communication expectations related to ICE presence on school grounds. Sharing protocols across the board will allow for efficient communication and collaboration between schools, school districts, local law enforcement, and other decision makers — keeping families apprised of what they need to feel safe and informed.

We must remember that schools are not just education dispensers: they're resource hubs, employers, crucial social spheres, and community pillars. Kids come to school to learn, but they also go to see their friends, get free meals and health care, and have a support system who's invested in seeing them succeed. They're vital one-stop-shops for information, resources, and support that many families across our state turn to them for. It's imperative that they remain safe spaces students can rely on to foster their growth as the future generations of Oregonians.

HB 4079 is a vital, tangible step towards quelling the unimaginable burden of fear and uncertainty our communities are under. I urge your support of this bill; thank you for your consideration.