

Submitter: Katie Hynes-Petty

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4079

Honorable Members of the House Committee on Education, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 4079.

It is difficult for children to be able to learn and be successful in school if they are stressed or anxious about what could happen.

? Children today already have other stressors, the most extreme of which is the fear of school shootings. They do not need the fear of ICE or Border Patrol to be added to what they already deal with.

? Students in Community College or University, while more mature than their younger counterparts in elementary, middle and high school, need a similarly safe and secure learning environment.

? Parents want their children to be successful and happy students. They understand that children are under many pressures today and that it is important for them to have the safest possible learning environment when they are in school.?

? Parents are already dealing with the epidemic of anxiety and depression to which children and teens are currently exposed. They do not want their students to be exposed to further stressors that would further exacerbate this.

? School and college employees, especially administrators and front office staff, are probably the ones who will have to deal immediately with ICE or Border Patrol should they come on campus.

? It is important that policies and procedures be in place so that the response of school or college personnel is appropriate for maintaining a safe learning environment that respects the rights and confidentiality of students.

? While the hope is that schools not have to deal with federal immigration officers coming on campus, it is better to be well prepared with everyone knowing what to do.

? When students know that there are policies in place to protect to the greatest extent possible, they are more likely to relax and their focus can be where it should be; on learning and maturing into responsible, compassionate adults and citizens.

? That this bill puts an obligation on schools and colleges is reassuring. We like our educators but know that they are human too. Having a mandate to implement policies and a timeline for that makes it less likely that this important job not be neglected.

Members of the House Committee on Education, thank you for the work that you do on behalf of the people of Oregon. I urge you to vote in favor of moving this bill, HB 4079, out of committee and onto the house floor where, hopefully, it will be passed into law.

Sincerely,

Katie Hynes-Petty