



State of Oregon
Office of State Representative Ricki Ruiz
House District 50 Gresham & East Portland
900 Court St, NE, Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Hudson and Members of the Committee,

As a state lawmaker, a former school board member, and the son of immigrant parents, I understand deeply how important it is for schools to be places of safety, stability, and trust. Our public schools and institutions of higher education are not just buildings, they are communities where students should be able to learn without fear, and where families should feel confident that their children are protected and respected.

HB 4079 takes an important step toward ensuring that school districts and institutions of higher education have clear, thoughtful policies in place when federal immigration authorities enter school property. Too often, the absence of guidance leaves administrators, educators, students, and families confused in moments that are already stressful and frightening. This bill provides clarity, consistency, and accountability across Oregon.

I especially support the -1 amendment because it strengthens the bill by emphasizing transparency and communication. The amendment clarifies that adopted policies should include timely notification to the school community when federal immigration authorities are present on school grounds, while still protecting student privacy and complying with the law. This balance matters. Families deserve to know what is happening in their schools, and school leaders deserve clear direction on how and when to communicate without putting students at risk.



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At a time when we are seeing heightened immigration enforcement and growing fear among immigrant families, it is critical that Oregon sends a clear message: our schools are places of learning, not intimidation. Students should not be distracted by fear for their own safety or that of their parents while trying to focus on their education.

HB 4079, as amended, does not interfere with federal authority. Instead, it ensures that Oregon schools are prepared, transparent, and centered on student well-being. That is a responsibility we should all share.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to support HB 4079 with the -1 amendment and move the bill forward.

Respectfully,

State Representative Ricki Ruiz

Oregon House District 50