

Representative Susan McLain
House District 29



RE: Support for House Bill 4079

Dear Chair Hudson, Vice Chair Dobson, Vice Chair McIntire, and Members of the Committee:

I write today in support of House Bill 4079. As a former teacher of 42 years, the success of our schools is personal to me. All Oregon students, families, and educators deserve to feel safe in spaces of learning. Right now, community members in Western Washington County do not feel safe—in schools, in our neighborhoods, or in their homes. Escalating immigration enforcement, targeted harassment and detentions, and the presence of unidentified agents in community spaces has created an environment of fear across our region.

Constituents have shared devastating stories about the impacts of federal actions in our community. Parents are afraid to drop their children off at school. Students are scared to be in classrooms. Teachers and staff are fearful that their workplace will be targeted. At a recent school board meeting, Forest Grove Superintendent Suzanne West shared that attendance and enrollment rates have declined over the past year due to community stress over increased immigration enforcement. Federal policy decisions are having real, devastating consequences on our local school districts.

House Bill 4079 would require school districts to adopt policies in response to immigration enforcement actions on school property, including notifying the broader community when there is a verified immigration enforcement presence on campus. This bill is one step we can take to increase transparency and address community fears with accurate information.

I am proud to co-sponsor HB 4079, and I respectfully ask my colleagues to support this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan McLain".

Representative Susan McLain