

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

My name is Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg, and I am a current Beaverton City Councilor submitting testimony in my personal capacity.

I want to thank Rep. Finger McDonald for working on this critical issue, helping defend Oregon from federal overreach, and protecting Oregon's children and families from harm. I strongly support the Safeguarding Students and Families bill (HB 4079) because every member of our community deserves safety, stability, and protection.

This bill takes a proactive and measured approach to ensuring families are notified when there is a verified report of federal immigration authorities. Not rumors, not speculation, credible information. Our schools are seen as a safe haven for our community, and this bill takes a big step toward ensuring that.

We have already seen families withdrawing students from school due to fear created by ICE activity. As elected officials, we have a responsibility to do everything that we can to keep students feeling safe and supported in the classroom and support the well-being of their families. HB 4079 is a strong step toward that goal.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and please vote yes on HB 4079.