

OREGON WORKING FAMILIES PARTY

Testimony in Support of the Immigrant Justice/ Federal Response Package

To: Senate Committee on Education

From: Annie Naranjo-Rivera, Oregon Working Families Party

Feb 23nd, 2026

Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Annie Naranjo-Rivera, and I serve as the State Director of the Oregon Working Families Party. We are a grassroots, multiracial political organization made up of community-based organizations and unions committed to building a society that works for all of us—not just the wealthy and well-connected. We advocate for economic justice, racial equity, and a democracy that centers working people and their communities.

I write today on behalf of the thousands of working people we represent across Oregon in strong support of the 2026 Immigrant Justice Package (IJP), including:

- HB 4114 – Protect Your Door Act
- HB 4138 – Law Enforcement Accountability and Visibility Act (LEAVA)
- HB 4117 – Universal Representation & Children’s Stability Fund
- **HB 4079 – Safeguarding Students and Families**
- HB 4111 – Immigrant Anti-Discrimination Protections
- HB 4150 – Public Contracts Prohibition
- SB 1587 – Stop Data Brokers from Sharing Our Information
- SB 1570 – Healthcare Without Fear
- SB 1581 – School Meals for All
- Emergency Food Benefits
- Oregon Hunger Response Fund
- Protecting SNAP funding
- Maintaining the Healthier Oregon Program

Across Oregon, the recent increase in horrifying ICE activity and so-called “immigration enforcement” has created widespread fear and instability in our

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communities. For many immigrant families, schools are the only spaces where they feel a sense of safety and belonging. That safety is now under threat.

We have heard directly from hundreds of families across Oregon who no longer feel safe sending their children to school. Parents report heightened anxiety, students struggling to concentrate, and entire households living in constant fear of separation. Educators are being forced into impossible situations without clear guidance, while students pay the price. This climate of fear is not limited to immigrant families. The federal overreach we have seen leaves everyone in danger, immigrant and non-immigrant alike, and leaves one to wonder who will be next to be rounded up, detained, or worse.

Chronic absenteeism in Oregon has increased since the pandemic, with immigrant and mixed-status families disproportionately impacted. National data shows that immigration enforcement activity near schools leads to measurable drops in attendance, academic performance, and student mental health outcomes.

Schools should be places of learning, stability, and community—not sites of fear and uncertainty. Oregon has made a commitment to being a Sanctuary State, and that promise must be meaningful for the children and families who rely on it most. **HB 4079** lays out both proactive and reactive communication expectations to keep *everyone* safe. Consistent application and consistent communication is needed so that all students, parents and staff are able to be safe and informed if and when something happens in our communities.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to **support HB 4079** and advance the full Immigrant Justice Package (IJP).

Thank you for your time, leadership, and commitment to the safety and dignity of all Oregon families.

In solidarity,

Annie Naranjo-Rivera
State Director
Oregon Working Families Party