



February 23, 2026

TO: Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Our Children's Oregon

SUBJECT: Support HB 4079 to Safeguard Students and Families

Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the Committee,

My name is David Wieland, I'm the Policy and Advocacy director at Our Children Oregon. We leverage data and research to champion equitable opportunities and outcomes for every child in the state. We bring together over 135 child-serving organizations across the state to build a shared legislative agenda to improve child wellbeing. HB 4079, Safeguarding Students and Families, is one of the key bills included in the Children's Agenda this session. We are in strong support of this common sense requirement for schools.

We've seen firsthand or heard stories of the scale of disruption caused by federal immigration enforcement near our schools. This not only disproportionately impacts our youth in immigrant families, who live in fear of what's to come when they wake up each morning, but disrupts and traumatizes all students, teachers, and staff that are impacted. As we heard, these lockdowns and procedures are happening multiple times a day in some places. Schools, parents, and families should not be left to figure out how to navigate these disruptions alone - the unfortunate reality is that we've seen a patchwork of responses ranging from families hearing rumors to missing notification entirely when their children witness or experience a difficult event during the school day.

Schools must remain hubs of learning, engagement, and safety. When immigration enforcement appears on or near campus, clear, predictable protocols and communication are essential. HB 4079 establishes proactive and reactive

communication standards to keep everyone safe. Consistent application across all districts ensures that every student, parent, and staff member—regardless of which school they attend—can be safe and informed during these incidents.

In a generation defining moment for Oregon's children, I'm relieved to have compassionate and thoughtful leaders creating state policy. HB 4079 is an important and common sense response, but far from meeting the moment on its own. I would encourage you to vote yes on HB 4079, support the broader Immigrant Justice Package, the community-led policies that protect the freedoms and well-being of all Oregon children, and to think and move boldly and creatively right now for Oregon's children. We need your leadership.

Thank you for your time,
David Wieland