

Submitter: Maria Faria  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4079

Dear Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber, and other members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a testimony in SUPPORT of HB 4049.

We are witnessing an unprecedented disrupture of the safety and wellbeing of our communities. In outright disregard for the Bill of Rights and rule of law, federal agents are violently arresting, kidnapping and disappearing members of our communities. Countless cases of masked agents in unmarked vehicles stalking places of worship and schools to detain immigrants without warrants have been documented throughout the country. Oregon has been no exception.

Racial profiling of Latinos is creating an environment of sustained fear among our neighbors. Fear is so pervasive that its consequences are felt even in families whose lawful presence in the US is fully documented. US citizens of Latino descent are being terrorized too. Skin color, facial trades and spoken language have become liability. Children are no exception. They are afraid to come school, to play outside, or to leave the house for any of the reasons any child would.

Our children, their parents, and school staff deserve better. Children deserve to come and go from school, with their parents, without fearing that this act of good parenthood could result in their loved ones being permanently taken from them and exposed to inhumane treatment. School staff, parents and children deserve a safe environment to focus on child development. The minimum we can do is to provide our schools with tools to increase student safety and mental wellbeing.

HB 4079 does just that. It promotes a tool that can insure that students, families and staff are informed and safe and can prioritize the right of every child to thrive even in adverse circumstances.

I fully support HB 4049 and urge the Senate Committee on Education to recognize the emergency, vote YES on HB 4049, and timely send it to the Senate Floor for a chamber vote.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Maria  
Corvallis