



TO: Senate Committee on Education
FROM: PCUN
SUBJECT: Support for HB 4079A

February 24, 2026

Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Committee on Education,

My name is Cynthia Ramirez, and I am a Policy Associate with PCUN, Oregon's Farmworker Union. At PCUN, we work to empower farmworkers and Latinx working families to improve their working and living conditions through community building, organizing, and policy advocacy. I am writing in strong support of HB 4079A to Safeguard Students and Families.

PCUN believes that schools should be safe spaces for all students, where they deserve to feel protected and secure. We want to ensure that students can focus on their studies rather than feeling a constant air of uncertainty and anxiety regarding increased ICE presence.

Last year, the Department of Homeland Security officially rescinded the "protected areas" policy, which previously had designated schools as a "sensitive area", limiting ICE presence. Since then, we have seen increased ICE activity around these areas, resulting in a widespread sense of mistrust, fear, and panic within our community. In July, a 38 year Iranian father was detained outside of his child's preschool in Beaverton.¹ In mid October, there were confirmed sightings of ICE presence in Wilsonville.² In late October, an elementary school in Rockwell was shut down due to an ICE operation.³ Chemeketa Community College had unannounced ICE presence at their Woodburn location, and a fury of frightened students, staff, and community members took it upon themselves to try to spread the word. The presence of ICE vehicles near campus grounds terrified our

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<https://beavertonvalleytimes.com/2025/07/17/ice-arrests-chiropractor-outside-his-kids-beaverton-preschool/>

2

<https://www.kgw.com/article/news/politics/immigration-news/ice-agents-surveillance-near-wilsonville-middle-school/283-5a3bb320-9a3b-49cd-bd71-ee3d734682db>

3

<http://katu.com/news/local/immigration-customs-enforcement-ice-operation-prompts-closure-gresham-rockwood-preparatory-school-sparking-community-concerns>

community members so much that they stopped attending their classes due to fear of being detained.

HB 4079A lays out proactive and reactive communication expectations to keep everyone safe. Consistent application and consistent communication is needed so that all students, parents and staff regardless of which school they attend, are able to be safe and informed when something happens in their community. Oregonians know when we are informed we can be stronger together.

PCUN strongly urges this committee to vote YES on HB 4079A.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Ramirez
Policy Associate
PCUN