

Submitter: John O'Donoghue
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4079

Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 4079. I am a retired educator. I have taught at both Community College and High School levels and was a High School counselor for the final ten years of my career.

Education means nothing if it is not about children and students, their learning and psychosocial development, their journey towards responsible and independent adulthood. Students of all ages do best when their learning environment offers them a sense of safety.

The activities of ICE in cities such as Chicago and Minneapolis, especially their operations close to schools or actually on school property, have created a constant state of fear and anxiety for children. Parents in these areas have found that they are unable to protect their students from a heightened sense of insecurity. Recent years have already seen a huge rise in the levels of anxieties and depression among children, teens, and college level students. ICE's aggressive, undisciplined, indiscriminate tactics are making matters worse.

This bill, HB 4079, mandates that all public schools and colleges have policies and procedures in place to address situations where federal immigration officials show up at schools or on school property. It is a small step but it offers some reassurance to students that they will be secure in their school environments. Additionally, it ensures that all school personnel will have at least a basic knowledge regarding what to do should they encounter ICE or Border Patrol encroaching on school grounds.

Members of the Senate Committee on Education, thank you for the work that you do for us, the people of Oregon. I urge you to vote in favor of moving this bill, HB 4079, out of committee and onto the house floor where, I hope, it will be passed into law.

Sincerely,

John O'Donoghue