

Submitter: John Letz
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4079

I am writing today to urge you to support immigrant justice.

The Immigrant Justice Package keeps families together, protects children, and prevents further harm by pairing smart, cost-effective investments with commonsense protections. It ensures access to legal representation so families are not torn apart simply because they cannot afford a lawyer. It protects access to health care and food so children can grow, learn, and stay healthy. And it strengthens state protections to prevent abuse, retaliation, discrimination, and the misuse of personal data.

The 2026 Immigrant Justice Package includes:

Critical Investments:

Universal Representation & Children's Stability Fund - HB 4117
Maintain the Healthier Oregon Program
School Meals For All - SB 1581
Emergency Food Benefits
Oregon Hunger Response Fund
Protect SNAP

Budget-Neutral Protections:

Safeguarding Students and Families - HB 4079
Protect Oregon Data - SB 1587
Protect Your Door Act - HB 4114
Public Contracts Prohibition - HB 4150
Anti-Discrimination Protections - HB 4111
Law Enforcement Accountability and Visibility Act (LEAVA) - HB 4138
Healthcare without Fear - SB 1570

As a retired teacher who worked with many families with immigrant parents, I was struck with how much they valued education for their children, yet there were periods of insecurity due to operations of "la Migra in our region. When these sweeps occurred locally, the education of the children and often or the parents was interrupted. That was an infrequent occurrence compared to what's happening today in so many communities. Now immigrant Oregonians, our families, and communities have been targeted by violent, lawless ICE sweeps, resulting in community-wide fear

and devastating family separations. No family should have to plan for parents being torn from their children. These reckless federal attacks demand a strong, unified response.

The 2026 Immigrant Justice Package and is backed by a broad coalition of immigrant justice advocates, civil liberties groups, unions, and community based organizations. I urge you to support these community-led policies to protect the freedoms of all Oregonians.

Sincerely,
Mr. John Letz
Merlin, OR