

Submitter: Teresa Alonso Leon
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4079
TO: House Committee on Education
SUBJECT: Support HB 4079 to Safeguard Students and Families

Chair Hudson and members of the House Committee on Education

My name is Teresa Alonso Leon, I am a former State Representative (HD 22) and small business owner, and I live in Woodburn, Oregon. I currently lead the only statewide community advocacy group on higher education, called the Oregon Community Table on Postsecondary Education and Training, also known as OCTPET. Part of our work is advocating for our underrepresented students in postsecondary education. We have about 140 members statewide. I am writing in strong support of HB 4079, which would safeguard students and Families.

Federal guidance designating schools as “sensitive areas” was rescinded in In 2025, it created uncertainty regarding on-campus ICE actions. Federal enforcement actions have increased in the areas around schools. In recent months, schools have been forced to go into lockdown procedures, Sometimes, several schools in a single day.

Schools are hubs of learning, engagement, and safety, and they must remain that way. Any time there is an incident involving law enforcement or unknown people with access to weapons in or around school locations, there must be a clear process and communication.

As an organization, we hear from students around the state currently on our campuses who believe that institutions are unwilling to inform them when ICE is on campus, and that institutions cannot prevent ICE from being on campus. This understanding instills fear in our students, which impacts their ability to attend school or feel safe on campus. Our students have the right to focus on their education.

This bill lays out proactive and reactive communication expectations to keep everyone safe. Consistent application and consistent communication are 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 that when we are informed, we can be stronger together.

HB 4079 is part of 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,

Teresa Alonso Leon