

Submitter: Matt Bisek
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4079

Chair Hudson and members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Matt Bisek, and I live in Oregon. I serve as the Executive Director of the Oregon TRIO Association, a statewide nonprofit supporting college access and student success programs that serve low-income and first-generation students across our state.

I am writing in strong support of HB 4079 to safeguard students and families.

In my work with schools and college access programs across Oregon, I regularly hear from educators and students about the importance of schools being places of safety and stability. When uncertainty or fear enters the school environment, it directly affects students' ability to focus, learn, and plan for their futures.

Recent changes in federal guidance and increased enforcement activity near schools have created confusion and anxiety for many families. Schools are meant to be hubs of learning, support, and engagement. When incidents occur near or around campuses, students, families, and staff deserve clear, consistent communication so they can respond appropriately and remain safe.

HB 4079 provides common-sense expectations for communication and transparency when situations arise that could impact school communities. Consistent communication protocols help ensure that all students — regardless of background — can feel safe and informed in their learning environments.

For the students and families served through TRIO and other college access programs, stability in K–12 environments is foundational. Students cannot fully engage in academic planning or college preparation when they feel unsafe at school or uncertain about what is happening around them.

This bill reinforces a simple but important principle: schools must remain safe, predictable environments where students can focus on learning. Clear communication during moments of uncertainty helps maintain trust between schools, families, and communities.

I urge you to support HB 4079 and help ensure that Oregon's schools remain places of safety, clarity, and opportunity for all students.

Sincerely,
Matt Bisek