

2/25/2026

Representative Ken Helm
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Helm,

My name is Maura Nederostek-Ford, and I am writing to you as a high school student regarding the House Bill 4079. This bill would help ensure safety for students by establishing policies or plans about notifying administrators and families when necessary and protecting students' identities and personal information. I am writing to echo the rising concerns about federal immigration authorities arriving onto school property in Oregon, and to encourage support for House Bill 4079, which would be beneficial to help school district boards conduct policies or a system to help approach and respond to any emergency involving federal immigration agents.

This bill can reassure many people about federal immigration officials entering school property and campuses. House Bill 4079 is also known as the "Safeguarding Students and Families Act" and would have schools and colleges in the state of Oregon agree on a system that would notify families if there were federal immigration authorities on school grounds¹. This would help both parents and students feel more aware and instill a safe learning environment for the students. There are flyers seen all around Portland that say things like: "STOP: NO ICE ACCESS IN THIS BUSINESS," reads a "NOTICE TO ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT & IMMIGRATION AGENTS"². Some people feel assured by these signs, but others, college students especially, see more concerns with it and are afraid that it will not prevent federal immigration officials from arriving. The bill also states that it will require that the information of the location of the authority and if it affects classes or activities, others will be notified and it will keep personal identities and information confidential³. Students will not have to worry about any invasion of privacy and would know that there are people looking out for them too.

I know many students that go to various schools across Portland, and we all have been expressing concern about our safety ever since the ICE agents were first seen in Portland and it

¹ Tiffany Camhi, "Bills protecting immigrant students, families at Oregon public schools move forward at the capitol," Oregon Public Broadcasting, February 12, 2026, <https://www.opb.org/article/2026/02/12/education-bills-protect-immigrant-students-oregon-schools/>

² Andrew Schwartz, "Every Telephone Pole Says Whom to Call If You See ICE," Willamette Weekly, February 11, 2026, <https://www.wweek.com/culture/2026/02/11/every-telephone-pole-says-whom-to-call-if-you-see-ice/>

³ HB 4079, 83rd Cong. (2026).

I know numerous students that go to various schools across Portland, and we all have been expressing concern about our safety and the safety of other students in our community since ICE agents were first seen in Portland. When it caught the attention of news organizations, it only made the tension and the concern for safety heighten. Across multiple school districts there are many students who are just like me that want a safe learning space and also want to ensure the safety of their peers and educators. Through HB 4079, the safety and privacy of all students in Oregon will be ensured, making all of us feel more protected and less afraid. Every student deserves an education in a safe environment free from any threat from federal agents.

I encourage you to support House Bill 4079, which would assist schools and their districts in response to any unprecedented circumstances involving federal authorities. I appreciate your time and consideration and if you have any questions, concerns, or need additional information regarding this bill, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you and hope to continue working with your office in the future.

Sincerely,

Maura Niderostek-Ford

Bibliography

- Camhi, Tiffany. "Bills protecting immigrant students, families at Oregon public schools move forward at the capitol," Oregon Public Broadcasting, February 12, 2026. <https://www.opb.org/article/2026/02/12/education-bills-protect-immigrant-students-oregon-schools/>
- Schwartz, Andrew. "Every Telephone Pole Says Whom to Call If You See ICE," Willamette Weekly, February 11, 2026. <https://www.wweek.com/culture/2026/02/11/every-telephone-pole-says-whom-to-call-if-you-see-ice/>

