

Submitter: Maura Nederostek-Ford
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4079

Representative Ken Helm
900 Court St. NE, H-490
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Helm,

My name is Maura Nederostek-Ford, and I am writing to you as a concerned high school student regarding House Bill 4079 . This bill would help ensure safety for students by establishing policies to notify administrators and families in emergencies, as well as protecting students' identities and personal information. I am reaching out to express my 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 any emergency involving federal immigration agents.

Many families feel nervous about sending their kids to school and have safety concerns about federal authority agents. This bill 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 grounds . This would help reassure both parents and students and create the safe learning environment that all students deserve. There are flyers seen all around Portland buildings and establishments that spread messages such as: "'STOP: NO ICE ACCESS IN THIS BUSINESS,' reads a 'NOTICE TO ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT & IMMIGRATION AGENTS' in the window of a neighborhood pub" . Some people are comforted by these signs, but others, college students especially, see more concerns with them and are afraid that it will not prevent federal immigration officials from arriving. If this bill is passed, students will not have to worry about any invasion of privacy and would know that their legislators and lawmakers are prioritizing their safety.

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 Nederostek-Ford