



February 25, 2026  
Senate Committee on Education  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Testimony in Support of House Bill 4079**

Dear Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber and all the members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Amanda Elmer, and I submit this testimony in strong support of House Bill 4079 on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon). The ACLU of Oregon is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing civil rights and civil liberties, with more than 50,000 members and donor supporters statewide.

**Schools in Oregon should be equitable places of safety and education — where all students, regardless of documentation status, race, first language, or background are able to engage in the learning process without disruption or fear.**

Along with the majority of Oregonians across the state, ACLU of Oregon's members believe that ALL students have the right to an equal and safe education.

Federal immigration enforcement actions have increased drastically around schools since the "sensitive area" designation was rescinded in 2025. As a result, schools across Oregon are in a perpetual state of uncertainty — leading to frequent lockdowns that not only disrupt the learning environment, but also cause significant fear and trauma for students and their families. In a moment when students are facing fear and uncertainty due to federal immigration enforcement, we must ensure our schools can properly and consistently communicate with parents and legal guardians.

As a former 4th and 5th grade teacher in the Beaverton School District, I am familiar with the stress and fear associated with the lockdowns that occur any time there is an incident involving law enforcement or unknown persons with access to weapons in or around school locations. When I was teaching, these events were rare and infrequent and yet they still had a grave impact on a students' ability to feel safe enough to learn, and on the level of trust families placed in their neighborhood schools. Events such as these require consistent, clear, and reliable communication procedures for students, families, and school staff. However, currently, we do not have a uniform requirement to ensure all schools have a safety and communication protocol when there is a presence of immigration enforcement at or near school grounds.

As these enforcement threats continue to escalate, Oregon has a dire responsibility to protect every single student, family member, and staff person in our schools across the state. Information and clarity are essential – our communities are safer and stronger when they are informed.

**HB 4079 is a commonsense bill that establishes proactive and reactive communication expectations to keep students, families, and educators safe.** By passing HB 4079 as part of the Immigrant Justice Package, the Legislature is supporting community-led policies to protect the freedoms of all Oregonians.

**The ACLU of Oregon strongly urges your support for House Bill 4079 and asks you to pass it out of committee.**

Respectfully,

**Amanda Elmer**, Communications Coordinator  
[aelmer@aclu-or.org](mailto:aelmer@aclu-or.org)

For questions, please contact Jessica Maravilla, [jmaravilla@aclu-or.org](mailto:jmaravilla@aclu-or.org)