



## Oregon Community Table on Postsecondary Education and Training

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Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber and members of the Senate Committee on Education.

My name is Angelo Arredondo from Salem. I currently serve as the program manager for the Oregon Community Table on Postsecondary Education and Training, also known as OCTPET. We have the distinction of currently being the only statewide community advocacy group on higher education. Part of our work is advocating for our underrepresented students in postsecondary education and their families. We have about 140 members statewide. On behalf of our members who voted to support this legislation unanimously, I am writing in strong support of HB 4079 to Safeguard Students and Families.

Federal guidance designating schools as “sensitive areas” was rescinded in 2025 created uncertainty regarding on-campus ICE actions.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 persons with access to weapons in or around school locations there must be clear process and communication.

Our students are scared for their safety, oftentimes the students we serve come from all backgrounds. They are parents, they are working multiple jobs just to survive college, they have to work to support their family, among many other things. Our communities shouldn't have to worry about being targeted and forcefully removed while trying to learn math at a critical time where all students are already facing some other kind of hardship.

Schools should be safe places of learning for everyone. No students or community members should feel unsafe at an education institution. Our students and community should not be worried of being unjustly targeted just because of how they look. They should be able to follow the dream of pursuing an education without fear.



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This bill lays out proactive and reactive communication expectations to keep everyone safe. Consistent application and consistent communication is 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 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.

Best,

Angelo Arredondo

OCTPET Program Manager