



TO: Senate Committee On Education
SUBJECT: Support HB 4079 Safeguarding Students and Families

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

My name is Daniel Altamirano Hernandez and I live in Central Oregon. I am writing on behalf of The Latino Community Association and 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Federal guidance designating schools as “sensitive areas” was rescinded in 2025 created uncertainty regarding on-campus ICE actions.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.

As the sole culturally-specific nonprofit service provider serving immigrant & Latine communities here in Central Oregon, we’ve witnessed firsthand the effects of the current climate of fear. Our office has been receiving calls from families who are fearful of operating their daily lives. Children don’t go to school, adults are weary about going to the grocery store or doctor’s office, and as a result families are living in the shadows. HB 4079 provides a level of much needed protection. For immigrants, refugees, and the entire Latine community here in the State of Oregon.

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.

I urge you to support these community-led policies to protect the freedoms of all Oregonians.

Gracias,

Daniel Altamirano Hernandez
The Latino Community Association
Central Oregon Region (Deschutes, Jefferson, Crook)