

Dear Committee

I am contacting you as a student in Portland regarding the Safeguarding Students and Families Act, which the COPS School Violence Prevention Program funds. I am writing to urge your support for House Bill 4079, which will notify students, families, and staff, if federal agents appear on campus to enforce immigration. Voting for this bill will create a safer environment for immigrant families, and improve students' mental health.

The Safeguarding Students and Families Act is a policy that requires schools to integrate an alert system regarding when a confirmed presence of immigration agents is on campus.¹ This system helps prevent confusion and panic by ensuring that students, families, and staff receive accurate information promptly. In an article written by Tiffany Camhi, a legislator named Andrade states “Our school has not experienced an encounter with federal immigration authorities on campus, but the fear of that possibility remains present for many students and families.”² This statement directly highlights that the fear the people face today, regardless of whether or not enforcement actually occurs, can negatively affect students’ sense of safety at school. For more than three decades, the government has blocked immigration enforcement from making arrests in schools and churches. But through the years, that policy has been updated to include other “protected areas,” such as hospitals and homeless shelters, to prevent enforcement actions that will restrict access to essential services and activities.³ These protections show that the government already recognizes the importance of keeping places like schools safe and accessible for vulnerable communities.

For example, at my school, a staff member was wrongly detained by an immigration officer. He was on his way to work, and while he was in the car, a federal agent forced his way into the car by breaking the window. He was taken into ICE custody and transferred to Texas. Our school decided not to be public with this information, because of the students’ mental health. This man wasn’t just a worker, he was a person. He came to the U.S. on a work visa, and for twenty years he worked to support not only himself, but his family. For three years my mom and I often had conversations with him about anything, school, life, dreams, work, etc. But now, he has been in immigration since November 2025. If you have any power at all in this situation, please return him safely to his family.

¹ HB 4079, 84th Cong. (2026).

² Tiffany Camhi, “Bill Protecting Immigrant Students, Families at Oregon Public School 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>.

³ Moriah Balingit, “Teachers Describe Immigration Enforcement’s Impact on Classrooms in Challenge of Trump Policy,” Oregon Public Broadcasting, February, 13, 2026, <https://www.opb.org/article/2026/02/13/teachers-describe-immigration-enforcement-s-impact-on-classrooms-in-challenge-of-trump-policy>.

I urge you to support the Safeguarding Students and Families Act, which benefits the community by creating a safer environment for immigrants and improving students' mental health. If you or your staff would like any additional information regarding this bill, please contact me directly. Thank you for your consideration and I hope you have a wonderful rest of your day.

Sincerely,

Seren Tufts

Bibliography

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