

Jolee McMahan's Testimony in Support of House Bill 4079  
Senate Education Committee, 2/24/26, 8:00 a.m.

Good Morning, Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the Committee. My name is Jolee McMahan. I am a junior at South Salem High School. I serve as a Student Advisor to the Salem-Keizer School Board, to help bring student voice to our board. I am here today to testify in support of House Bill 4079.

If passed, I know House Bill 4079 would provide much needed support to school communities because it would require notification to families and school employees if there were confirmed incidents of ICE coming onto school properties or campuses. I believe implementing procedures like this is critical to keep families safer and informed, as if these very traumatic experiences were to happen in school districts throughout Oregon, it is **vital** for people to be informed. Not knowing could be detrimental and wouldn't allow families to take care of each other and their children, and also hinder school staff from supporting and caring for the students who are potentially impacted.

For a growing number of students the ability to be fully present in the classroom is being hindered by preoccupation and worry they feel related to ICE, and some students are going to school less because of their fear of what could happen to their families when they are at school. Some are scared of being separated from loved ones, and not having the ability for a direct form of communication with their families during the school day.

Several students have shared with me how ICE is impacting the whole Salem community, and their individual lives. There has been an emotional outcry! The consensus is many students feel a range of emotions including very somber, frustrated, fearful, and a sense of hopelessness. Students, staff and their families need more procedures like those contained in House Bill 4079 to feel safer within schools.

If House Bill 4079 passes, I believe it will benefit every school in Oregon because it will keep families and staff informed and decrease some of the fear felt by students and parents throughout Oregon. If **everyone** is informed, then our schools will truly foster safe learning environments under the implementation of House Bill 4079.

Thank you.