

TO: House Committee on Education

SUBJECT: Support HB 4079 to Safeguard Students and Families

Chair Hudson and all the members of the House Committee on Education

My name is Miranda Morales and I live in Portland. I am a program coordinator that works out of 4 middle schools in North/Northeast Portland, providing mentorship for latine middle school aged youth. I am writing in **strong support of HB 4079 to Safeguard Students and Families.**

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.

I am in heavy support of measure HB4079 because the community I work with rely on intentional resources and communications. A lot of the families I tend to work with are of latine background. The current issues that are taking place in our communities are heavily targeting our latine families. With proper resources and communications being sent out, it would ensure that these families aren't missing vital information throughout the day. I have seen firsthand how lockdowns happen and how quickly the anxiety spreads in those moments. However, I can't imagine the anxiety of families who are hearing about things in their community but are not getting intentional communications about what is happening in their children's schools, especially as it is happening. That is why i believe passing HB4079 would be beneficial to all families if done in an intentional manner. We must protect our most vulnerable populations and while community members/partners are there, we also need our leaders to advocate in a way that is realistic and ensuring that all voices are being heard and respected.

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.

Sincerely,

Miranda Morales

Portland, OR