

Submitter: Jacqueline Johnson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4079

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

My name is Jacqueline Johnson and I live in Beaverton, OR. I am a parent, caretaker, youth advocate and immigrant. 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Federal guidance designating schools as “sensitive areas” was rescinded in 2025 created uncertainty regarding on-campus ICE actions.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.

When I first migrated to the United States, I made Oregon my home away from home. From the beginning, Oregon felt like a safe haven, a place where I was welcomed and where I could begin to rebuild my life with dignity and hope. As I put down roots, I began working with students as a youth advocate and mentor, and I quickly learned the power of presence: of taking up space, leading by example, and showing young people that they belong.

Over time, I was able to build a beautiful life here and raise my children in a city where they once felt safe, supported, and free to thrive. But over the last year, that sense of safety has been deeply shaken. Our community has endured fear and uncertainty, and the increased presence of ICE has been devastating. The place that once felt like home now feels uneasy. I no longer leave my home unless it is absolutely necessary, and I carry constant worry when I send my children to school. This bill would do more than provide much needed safeguards; it would restore peace of mind to families like mine. It would send a powerful message to our community: that our city, our county, and our state care; that we are still welcome; and that our families matter

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.

Sincerely,
Jacqueline Johnson
Beaverton, OR