

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,

I am a community member in East Multnomah County, an ally, and someone who has worked in elementary education for over a decade. I speak from a place of fear, hope, and trust that you will do the right thing and vote yes on HB4079 to safeguard students and families. The federal government's grotesque abuse of power is threatening our communities, loved ones, and neighbors. Immigration enforcement's unjust reign on school grounds and surrounding areas, once known as sanctuary spaces, has had devastating impacts on students who deserve safety, a place to belong, and an atmosphere to learn.

This bill is more than requiring mandatory safety response protocols; this bill initiates action against acts of violence, racism, and oppression that are targeting those we claim to care about most, our youth and their futures.

By saying yes to HB4079 you are acting in their best interest to protect them from harm at all costs, and it is a visible declaration of standing with the community you have been elected to serve. This is an opportunity to dismantle governmental abuse of power that reinforces our immigrant communities to live in fear, the very fear they have already faced when leaving their former countries. The cumulative effects of this trauma will soon manifest as a public health crisis, and I urge you to be part of the solution by creating systems of safety and voting yes on HB4079.