



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

February 4, 2026

To: **Representative Hudson, Chair**
And Members of the House Committee on Education

Re: **HB4079 – Safeguarding Students and Families – Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports the concepts embodied in HB 4079-1, Safeguarding Students and Families, based on League belief in the need to promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans. Further, immigration policies should be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. This bill would require schools to notify students, parents, school employees, and community-based service providers when federal immigration authorities are on the campus.

It is important that people have timely and accurate information so that they can know when there is an imminent danger to their family members. Without this, parents are forced to rely on rumors, which may cause them to overreact.

At a time when Oregon is concerned about student attendance and their performance on tests, it is important to note research published in November, 2025, which has demonstrated that the increase in immigration raids and detentions has negatively affected both.

A [study](#) of school communities in California communities where more than 70% of the students were Hispanic found that the raids caused students to miss 22% more days of school during the spring of 2025 than the same time period in the two previous years. Interviews revealed that the absences were caused by parental fears of being separated from their children.

A Florida-based [study](#) of school districts where 35% of the students were Hispanic found that after school zones were no longer considered sensitive locations pre ICE enforcement, test performance fell for middle and high school students from Spanish-speaking households. This was true even though most of the students in the study were U.S. citizens.

In Oregon, 47% of students in the Salem-Keiser district identify as Hispanic or Latino and 42% in the Hillsboro district. According to the [Oregon Department of Education](#), 28% of K-12 students across the state identified as Hispanic/Latino in 2024-25.

We urge your Support for HB 4079.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Klein".

Barbara Klein
Acting President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean W. Pierce".

Jean Pierce
Action Chair