

Submitter: Tammy Carpenter
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4079
TO: House Committee on Education
RE: Support for HB 4079 to Safeguard Students and Families

Chair Hudson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Tammy Carpenter and I serve on the Beaverton School Board. I am writing to you today on my own behalf, strongly encouraging you to support Representative Finger-McDonald's legislation to protect the dignity and the mission of our schools from ICE harassment and terror.

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.

In recent months schools have been forced to go into lockdown procedures, sometimes several schools in a single day. Families are making difficult decisions about the safety of their children – many have already decided to shift to online school and many more choose to forgo school altogether.

It wasn't always like this. School was a refuge for me when I was growing up – for so many, school is a home away from home. I am proud of the students in Beaverton and across Oregon who are saying enough is enough – they have been walking out of class to protest ICE and demand that their elected leaders do more. They are right. We all must do more.

This bill lays out clear expectations for schools to keep everyone safe from a Federal government that doesn't care about education or laws or families. Remember when we were arguing about books and bathrooms? Welcome to 2026, we are dealing with militarized troops now.

Our frontline communities and advocates are asking for the entire Immigrant Justice Package, and HB 4079 is a crucial piece of it. I urge you to support these community-led policies to protect the freedoms of all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Tammy Carpenter
Beaverton School Board Director