



OREGON STATE SENATE
Testimony in Support of HB 4079

February 5, 2026

Chair Hudson, Vice Chair Dobson, Vice Chair McIntire, and Members of the House Education Committee,

I write in strong support of HB 4079, with amendment, a bill that **safeguards students and families by requiring schools and districts to notify families, students, and staff when immigration enforcement agents are verified on school grounds.** The bill allows for the use of existing alert systems and ensures families receive timely, accurate information from a trusted source.

This is not hypothetical. This is exactly what my school district did when **ICE parked on the campus of my neighborhood primary and middle school.** Within hours, families received the following message through our established alert system:

“Earlier today, school staff received a report that an ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) vehicle was parked on campus near the Wood football field. District staff engaged with the officials and were told that the vehicle was there for surveillance of the general area. Staff informed the agents that they were parked on private school property and asked them to leave, which they did shortly after.

Our School Resource Officer and Clackamas County Sheriff’s Office are aware of this occurrence. We know that the presence of any type of law enforcement on campus can create questions or concern for students, staff and community members. We want all of our students, staff, and community members to know that their well-being is our top priority,”

This communication modeled **best practice.** It reduced rumors, centered student safety, and gave families, documented and undocumented alike, the information they needed to make decisions to protect themselves and their loved ones.

Students, staff, and parents deserve clarity about evolving safety concerns near our schools. In recent months, violent **immigration enforcement activity has disrupted learning** for thousands of children across Oregon and the nation. Schools have gone into lockdown. Students have stayed home. Educators and families are experiencing uncertainty and trauma.

Student safety, both emotional and physical, is foundational to learning. It is difficult for any student to focus, retain information, or thrive when they are worried about their safety or the safety of their family. As we navigate chronic absenteeism, we must acknowledge the role that fear plays in whether a student can consistently attend school.

The trauma gutting our communities and stemming from escalating violent tactics by immigration agents affects documented and undocumented families alike. Just as schools announce a lockdown or police activity in the area of a school, they should communicate transparently when immigration enforcement is present.

Students go to school to learn, grow, and contribute to their communities. They cannot do that when they are bracing for a threat to their safety or basic rights. This bill promises information when people need it most.

HB 4079 affirms who we are as a state. We value education, transparency, and the well-being of our community members. While much more work remains to ensure immigrant justice and protect sensitive locations, this bill is an important step. It can serve to reassure families that when something serious is happening, they will hear the truth quickly from a trusted source.

On behalf of children asking for answers and families navigating rapidly changing situations, I respectfully urge your support of HB 4079.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron Misslin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Courtney Neron Misslin