



February 6, 2026

TO: House Committee on Education
From: Nansi López, Policy Director for Centro Cultural
RE: Support HB 4079 to Safeguard Students and Families

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

My name is Nansi Lopez, Policy Director at Centro Cultural. I appreciate the opportunity to testify on behalf of Centro Cultural in support of HB 4079. We ***strongly support HB 4079 to Safeguard Students and Families.***

Centro Cultural is the oldest and longest-serving Latino culturally specific organization in the state of Oregon. ***Centro Cultural's Mission:*** It empowers Latino families and diverse communities by removing barriers, fostering well-being, and building power to achieve economic prosperity. Centro centers the experiences of those most impacted in our communities in everything we do, with a commitment to reducing barriers at every level of our work across the organization.

Federal guidance designating schools as "sensitive areas" was rescinded in 2025 created uncertainty regarding on-campus ICE actions.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.



Centro Cultural leads the Rapid Response efforts in Washington County, Oregon, for Oregon for All. Our primary role is to support community members when ICE is present. As the lead on this important work, we're often tasked with notifying our school partners of ICE's presence on or near our schools. Taking your child to school should NOT be fear-inducing or dangerous. The pervasive acts of violence in or around our local schools throughout the state should NOT be the new normal. As Oregonians, we must act NOW to ensure the safety of our students and families. Safety isn't optional; it is a fundamental right—one essential for our children to thrive, learn, and build their futures. We owe it to them to protect their well-being and create an environment where every family can feel secure.

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.

HB 4079 is part of the 2026 Immigrant Justice Package and is backed by a broad coalition of immigrant justice advocates, civil liberties groups, unions, and community based organizations. I urge you to support these community-led policies to protect the freedoms of all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Nansi López, Policy Director for Centro Cultural
1110 N. Adair Street
Cornelius, Oregon 97113