

Dear Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

On behalf of the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs, we strongly urge the support of HB 4079. Over the years, I've watched the confusion and fear that have spread across the country when federal immigration authorities enter school grounds without clear state or local protocols. Such actions not only frighten students and families but also places staff in untenable positions, unsure of what the law allows or requires of them. As an educator, I speak from first-hand experience.

It is wise and prudent to adopt statewide policies to ensure every Oregon district and college is prepared for these situations. Oregon's *Sanctuary Promise Laws* already make clear that public entities, including schools, cannot use local resources to participate or aid in immigration enforcement without a judicial warrant, court order, or subpoena. HB 4079 would ensure that these legal protections are clearly reflected in practice at every educational institution across our state.

Having a strong, well-defined policy in place would do more than uphold the law – it would reduce anxiety and confusion. A model policy should clearly outline:

- The chain of communication and who serves as the lead contact when enforcement officers appear,
- The conduct expected of immigration authorities while on campus,
- The steps necessary to verify legal authority before any interaction occurs.

Such a framework would not only protect all involved but ensure that enforcement, when it happens, proceeds with transparency, order, and respect. Annual training and consistent statewide updates would maintain confidence and compliance among districts, staff, and communities.

More importantly, this anxiety isn't limited to our immigrant students and their families – it ripples through entire school communities. Just as we have protocols for lockdowns, environmental emergencies, and fire drills, we must also have clear policies for responding to immigration enforcement. These protocols should be accessible, well-communicated, and understood by staff, families, and students alike.

HB 4079 is both a practical and a humane step that upholds Oregon's values of safety, dignity, and fairness in education. We urge you to pass this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Liz Foucher-Branch
Commissioner, Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

