

ED DIEHL
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 17
MARION/LINN



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 17, 2026

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on HB 4079A

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I write to explain my "No" vote on HB 4079A.

HB 4079A creates an unnecessary mandate. Local school districts already have the freedom and authority to establish policies that protect students. The issues discussed on the House Floor appear limited to only a handful of schools, yet the Legislature is attempting to impose a statewide solution where one is not needed. My House district includes the second largest school district in the state and they told me today that they have not at any visits from ICE at their schools. Other smaller school districts in my state have also reported to me that no visits from ICE have occurred.

The bill also sends the wrong message to our educators and administrators who show up every day to protect our kids. It implies that schools are failing to protect children and young adults, when in reality they already operate under both a clear expectation and obligation to keep students safe and parents informed. For the vast majority of districts that are not facing these problems, it doesn't make schools safer — it simply grows bureaucracy and distracts from the real work of educating and protecting Oregon's children.

Equally concerning, this version contains no provision requiring state or local law enforcement, or school employees, to cooperate with federal immigration authorities when individuals charged with or convicted of crimes on school property or campuses are involved. That omission raises serious public safety questions.

For these reasons, I am a "no" on HB 4079A.

Sincerely,

Ed Diehl
Representative
House District 17