

JAMES P. MCGOVERN
2ND DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SENIOR DEMOCRATIC WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2102

<http://www.mcgovern.house.gov>

February 27, 2017

438 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2102
(202) 225-6101

DISTRICT OFFICES:
12 EAST WORCESTER STREET, SUITE 1
WORCESTER, MA 01604
(508) 831-7356

94 PLEASANT STREET
NORTHAMPTON, MA 01060
(413) 341-8700

24 CHURCH STREET, ROOM 29
LEOMINSTER, MA 01453
(978) 466-3552

Hon. Stanley C. Rosenberg, President
Massachusetts Senate
The State House, Room 332
Boston, MA 02133

Hon. Robert A. DeLeo, Speaker
Massachusetts House of Representatives
The State House, Room 356
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

I write to respectfully advocate in support of SD. 1596, "An Act to protect the civil rights and safety of all Massachusetts residents," also known as the Safe Communities Act.

America is a nation of immigrants. From our earliest days, Massachusetts has welcomed to our shores generations of families from across the globe in search of opportunity, safety, and the promise of a brighter future. *E Pluribus Unum* – Out of Many, One – is engraved in stone on our Capitol Building and signals to all that out of many beliefs, ethnicities, cultures, and faiths, we are all one American family.

President Trump's recent Executive Orders, along with largely state-led efforts to oppose them, highlight the role that state and local governments must play in opposing the anti-immigrant policies this administration now seems intent on implementing. Additionally, as you know, House Republicans have repeatedly failed to bring to the floor meaningful reforms to repair our broken immigration system. Given these realities, I turn to you to help protect Massachusetts' proud tradition of immigration.

The Safe Communities Act simply seeks to ensure that Massachusetts' tax dollars are used to keep our communities safe from crime, not to deport immigrants who fall through the cracks of a broken system. Additionally, it would ensure that Massachusetts provide no support for a "Muslim Registry," or any registry based on religion or other protected characteristics. I support these goals. I understand that the Safe Communities Act will require fine-tuning, but I respectfully urge you to begin considering this necessary legislation in an expeditious manner and to continue to take strong action to protect all residents of our communities.

Sincerely,



James P McGovern
Member of Congress

cc: Senator James B. Eldridge
Representative Juana Matias