

SUPPORT SAFE COMMUNITIES

(An Act to Protect the Civil Rights and Safety of All Massachusetts Residents)

S.1305 and H.3269

From the Boston Tea Party to the anti-slavery and marriage equality movements, Massachusetts leadership has always shaped the nation's consciousness on civil rights. Today, we need to see that kind of courage on behalf of immigrants and Muslims in our communities.

The Safe Communities Act would protect the civil rights of all state residents by making sure our tax dollars are not used to help the Trump Administration deport immigrant families or create a Muslim registry. This powerful new version of the Trust Act is sponsored by State Sen. Jamie Eldridge (S.1305) and State Rep. Juana Matías (H.3269).

KEY FEATURES OF THE SAFE COMMUNITIES ACT

1. **Prohibits state support for any Muslim registry.** Prohibits law enforcement agencies and the Registry of Motor Vehicles from allowing access to databases or records for enforcement of any federal registry program based on national origin, religion or other protected characteristics.
2. **Ensures Basic Due Process Rights** for immigrants detained in state and local facilities. Requires informing detainees - in a language they understand - that they have the right to decline an interview with ICE agents, and to have their own attorney present (at their own expense) if they so choose.
3. **Ensures that police resources are used to fight crime, not separate families.** Ensures that state, local and campus police don't participate in federal immigration enforcement activities, including participation in inquiries, investigations, raids, arrests or detentions that are based solely on immigration status. ***When police become ICE agents, immigrant victims and witnesses of crime are afraid to call police, which makes us all less safe.***¹
4. **Prohibits collaboration agreements** between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and law enforcement agencies that deputize state and local officers as immigration agents, like those recently concluded by Bristol and Plymouth counties.
5. **Upholds constitutional standards.** The bill puts citizens and non-citizens on equal footing with respect to law enforcement. It would **not** prevent police from arresting or detaining a person in the course of a criminal investigation or prosecution supported by probable cause of a crime, which is consistent with constitutional standards applicable to all people in the Commonwealth.
6. **Conforms to federal law.** The bill contains several provisions ensuring compliance with federal law, specifically 8 U.S.C. § 1373, which prohibits state and local governments from restricting the exchange of information about citizenship or immigration status.

¹ For example, immigrant state residents are historically twice as likely to be victims of domestic violence homicide than are the native born, in large part because they fear separation from children or other family members through deportation. Most MA immigrant families are "mixed status" families - which means that different members have different statuses. Most have U.S. citizen children.

Endorsing Organizations

(In Process)

Community

Agencia Alpha
Association of Haitian Women in Boston
Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center
Brazilian Women's Group
Brazilian Worker Center
Centro Presentè
Chelsea Collaborative
Committee of Refugees from El Salvador
Dominican Development Center
Jamaica Plain Women's Alliance
Latino Leadership Coalition
Latinos Unidos en Massachusetts
Lynn United for Change
Lynn Worker Center
Merrimack Valley Project
Neighbor to Neighbor Massachusetts
Phillips Brooks House Association
Point Neighborhood Association (Salem)
Salem No Place for Hate Committee
The African Council
The Welcome Project
Together North Shore
United Neighbors of Fitchburg / Comite de Vecinos
Young Cape Verdean Club, Inc.
YWCA Central MA

Faith-based

American Friends Service Committee, Northeast Region
Arlington Street Church - Social Action Committee
Brockton Interfaith Community
Diocese Saint Francis of Assisi, CCA
Episcopal City Mission
Essex County Community Organization
First Parish in Brookline, Unitarian Universalist Church
Franciscan Order of Saint Joseph Cupertino
Greater Boston Interfaith Organization
Immigration Pastoral Center, Inc.
Massachusetts Community Action Network
Sunday School for Jewish Studies
Unitarian Universalist Mass Action Network
United for Justice with Peace

Service Providers

Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee, Inc.
Harvard Islamic Society
Community Economic Development Center (New Bedford)
Economic Mobility Pathways
Enroot
International Institute of New England
Irish International Immigrant Center
Jewish Family Service of Metrowest
Jewish Vocational Service
Lynn Community Health Center
Mass. Assoc. of Community Development Corporations
Massachusetts Association of Portuguese Speakers
North Shore Community Development Coalition, Inc.
Rosie's Place

Civil Rights and Social / Economic Justice

American Civil Liberties Union of MA
American Jewish Committee
Anti-Defamation League, New England
Black and Pink
Coalition for Social Justice
Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador
Council on American-Islamic Relations of MA
Digital Fourth / Restore The Fourth - Boston
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action
Jewish Community Relations Council
Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition
Muslim Justice League
Oxfam America
Showing Up for Racial Justice, Boston
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Public Health

Clinicians for Healthy Families
Health Care for All

Domestic Violence Prevention

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
Casa Myrna Vazquez
Jane Doe, Inc.
REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, Inc
Safe Passage

Legal

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
American Immigration Lawyers Association, New England
Greater Boston Legal Services
Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project

Professional Associations

Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Association of Hispanic Attorneys
National Association of Social Workers, Massachusetts

Political

Boston Democratic Socialists of America
League of Women Voters of Massachusetts
Newton Democratic City Committee
Progressive Massachusetts

Educational

Harvard University Immigration & Refugee Clinical Program
Immigrant Integration Lab at Boston College
Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education
Partnership for Democracy & Education
Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts
World Education, Inc.

Labor

1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, Massachusetts
North Shore Labor Council
SEIU 32BJ
UNITE HERE Local 26