



Shared Budget Priorities To Protect Immigrant Families

Please include the following provisions in the final budget. It’s time to protect immigrants in our communities from harassment, profiling, deportation, and family separation.

These four provisions are fully compliant with federal law. They do not restrict communications between law enforcement and ICE in any way.

- 1) **End local police inquiries about immigration status**, which make victims of abuse, crime and exploitation afraid to come forward.
- 2) **Ensure immigrants in police custody are informed of their legal rights**, including the right to have a lawyer present for an interview with ICE. Without due process, people lose the right to challenge their deportation and separation from U.S. citizen children.
- 3) **End “287(g)” agreements between local sheriffs and ICE.** MA resources should not be co-opted for federal deportation. The provision explicitly preserves the ability of the Department of Correction to maintain a 287(g) contract in order transfer people ending state prison sentences to ICE custody.
- 4) **Say no to any discriminatory registry** based on race, religion, or other protected characteristics.

Massachusetts should focus on local needs and family values, not federal deportation that tears families apart.

We oppose unconstitutional proposals to allow local police to detain people for civil immigration infractions and hand them over to ICE. The legislature should not undermine the SJC’s *Lunn v. Commonwealth* decision and make Massachusetts affirmatively collaborate with the Trump administration’s deportation agenda.



All Endorsers

Civil Rights &

Social/Economic Justice

American Civil Liberties Union of MA
American Jewish Committee
Amnesty International USA, Boston
Anti-Defamation League, New England
Black and Pink
Boston Workmen's Circle
Coalition for Social Justice
Committee in Solidarity with the People
of El Salvador
Council on American-Islamic Relations
Digital Fourth / Restore the Fourth
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action
Jewish Community Relations Council
Massachusetts Transgender Political
Coalition
Muslim Justice League
Pathways to Justice – Indivisible
Oxfam America
September 11th Families for Peaceful
Tomorrows
Showing Up for Racial Justice, Boston
Unitarian Universalist Service
Committee
United for Justice with Peace
Voices Rising Together
White People in North Central Mass
Committed to Racial Justice

Community

Agencia ALPHA
Alliance for Immigration Justice
Association of Haitian Women in Boston
Bad*ss Activists in the Pioneer Valley
Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center
Brazilian Women's Group
Brazilian Worker Center
Cape Ann Local Action
Cape Cod Coalition for Safe Communities
Cape Cod Women for Change
Centro Presente
Chelsea Collaborative
Comité de Vecinos
Committee of Refugees from El Salvador
Dominican Development Center
Greater Lawrence Community Action
Council
Jamaica Plain Women's Alliance
Latino Leadership Coalition
Latinos Unidos en Massachusetts
Lawrence Community Works
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
South Shore Action
The African Council
The Welcome Project
Together North Shore
Voices Rising Together (So. Pioneer
Valley)
Woburn Welcomes
Women's Equality Cape Ann (WECANN)
Young Cape Verdean Club, Inc.
YWCA Central MA

Education

Boston Teachers Union
East Boston Community College
Harvard University Immigration &
Refugee Clinical Program
Immigrant Integration Lab at Boston
College
Massachusetts Coalition for Adult
Education
Mass Educators of English Language
Learners (MATSOL)
Massachusetts Teachers Association
Partnership for Democracy & Education
Public Higher Education Network of
Massachusetts (PHENOM)
World Education, Inc.

Faith-based

American Friends Service Committee,
Northeast & Western Regions
Arlington Street Church – Social Action
Committee
Azusa Christian Community
Berkshire Interfaith Organizing
Brockton Interfaith Community
Diocese Saint Francis of Assisi, CCA
Eitz Chayim, Cambridge
Episcopal City Mission
Essex County Community Organization
First Parish in Brookline, Unitarian
Universalist Church
First Parish in Cambridge – Beyond
Borders / Sin Fronteras Immigration
Task Force
Franciscan Order of Saint Joseph
Cupertino
Greater Boston Interfaith Organization
Harvard Islamic Society
Immigration Pastoral Center, Inc.
Massachusetts Community Action
Network
Nauset Interfaith Association
Network of Spiritual Progressives: Cape
Cod
Old Cambridge Baptist Church – Social
Action Team
Sharon Interfaith Clergy Committee
Sunday School for Jewish Studies
Unitarian Universalist Mass Action
Network

Labor

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

Legal

American Immigration Lawyers
Association, New England Chapter
Community Legal Services and
Counseling Center
Greater Boston Legal Services
Harvard Legal Aid Bureau
Irish International Immigrant Center
Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights &
Economic Justice
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Political Asylum/Immigration Rep.
Project

Sexual & Domestic Violence

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

Professional Associations

Asian American Lawyers Association of
Massachusetts
Massachusetts Association of Hispanic
Attorneys
Massachusetts Bar Association
National Association of Social Workers-
MA

Public Health

American Academy of Pediatrics / MA
Clinicians for Healthy Families
Committee of Interns and
Residents/SEIU
Healthcare
Greater Boston Health & Law Immigrant
Solidarity Network
Health Care for All
Lynn Community Health Center
Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund of
Massachusetts

Political

Boston Democratic Socialists of America
Florence Resist
Forward MA
Greater Boston Young Democrats
Indivisible Cape Cod
Indivisible Somerville
League of Women Voters of
Massachusetts
Massachusetts Peace Action
Newton Democratic City Committee
Our Revolution Cambridge
Pioneer Valley Women's March
Progressive Massachusetts
Women for Political Action – Cambridge

Service Providers

Cambridge Economic Opportunity
Committee, Inc.
Community Economic Development
Center, New Bedford
Economic Mobility Pathways
Enroot
International Institute of New England
Jewish Family Service of Metrowest
Jewish Vocational Service
Lynn Community Health Center
Massachusetts Affordable Housing
Alliance
Massachusetts Association of Community
Development Corporations
Massachusetts Association of Portuguese
Speakers
North Shore Community Development
Coalition, Inc.
Rosie's Place
Saheli, Support and Friendship for South
Asian Women and Families

TALKING POINTS

Protections for immigrants before the budget Conference Committee

Use for media and for meetings with House Representatives. (Sample letters to the editor are in the next section, and sample tweets/Facebook posts on the last page.) Encourage your Representative to advocate for these provisions with House leadership and with the Conference Committee!

1. **The budget provisions before the Conference Committee are NOT the Safe Communities Act.** This is a reasonable compromise: four modest measures with broad-based support (three were even included in a GOP-sponsored budget amendment!).
2. **Governor Baker's veto threat is based on a misreading of the Senate budget provisions,** either because he conflated them with the Safe Communities Act, or he missed the **significant compromises** made to win his support.
 - NOTHING in these provisions would limit communications between law enforcement and ICE. Not only does ICE have full access to arrest data, but unlike the SCA, these provisions wouldn't limit police's ability to notify ICE about people in their custody.
 - The ban on 287(g) agreements applies ONLY to sheriffs and police, NOT to the Department of Corrections, which can keep its existing collaboration with ICE.
3. Instead, the Senate budget includes four simple, but powerful provisions:
 - **Police shouldn't ask people about their immigration status.** This basic tenet of community policing helps prevent ethnic profiling and reduce fear in immigrant communities of reporting emergencies, crimes and exploitation to police. No crime victim or domestic violence survivor should have to suffer in silence for fear of deportation and separation from children. The Mass. State Police have a similar policy.
 - **Immigrants should be advised of their legal rights before talking to immigration officials, especially their right to contact their own lawyer.** Because immigration matters are civil and not criminal law, Miranda-type warnings are not given, and without this basic warning, people with valid immigration claims often end up in ICE custody and deported.
 - **Massachusetts should never participate in a Muslim registry. Period.**
 - **End collaboration agreements that deputize local sheriffs as ICE agents, at state taxpayers' expense.** Sheriffs run our Houses of Correction, which police departments often use as overnight jails for people picked up for minor offenses. Having sheriffs double as ICE agents not only wastes state resources, but it undermines trust in law enforcement.
4. **Adopting these basic protections will not make Massachusetts a "sanctuary" state.** Not only do the Senate budget provisions allow continued communication and collaboration between police and ICE – the whole concept of a "sanctuary" state, as used by opponents, is a misnomer. Nobody is harboring anyone; people who commit crimes will still be arrested, whatever their nationality, and ICE still operates freely all across Massachusetts.

5. These provisions have broad support.

- The Senate adopted these protections by a vote of 25 to 13, and Senate Republicans even included the first three verbatim in their own proposed amendment.
- Law enforcement supports these protections: the Mass. Major City Chiefs Association and the Mass. Chiefs of Police Association both endorsed a redrafted version of the Safe Communities Act that included them.

6. These provisions are good for public safety.

- Immigrants make up 1/6 of the Massachusetts population – and a quarter or more in some communities. Only a fraction are undocumented, but often they live in mixed-status households with lawful residents and U.S. citizens. When police ask about immigration status in routine interactions, it sends the message that that calling 911 could lead to deportation.
- Not only does this undermine law enforcement's duty to serve and protect everyone, but it has been shown to stop immigrants from reporting crimes and seeking help. That is dangerous for all of us. We are safest when EVERYONE feels safe speaking to the police.

Massachusetts should not volunteer our local resources to assist federal deportation campaigns. Instead, we should do everything in its power to keep immigrant families together.

Massachusetts has been a leader in the past and should be a leader now. It's time to take a stand for immigrant families in our Commonwealth, as over 30 of our cities and towns have already done.