

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.

Safe Communities Act – Endorsing Organizations (In Process)

Civil Rights & Social/Economic Justice

Alliance for Immigration 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 of MA
Digital Fourth / Restore the Fourth – Boston
Indivisible Cape Cod & Somerville
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
White People in North Central Mass
Committed to Racial Justice

Community

Agencia ALPHA
Alliance for Immigration Justice
Association of Haitian Women in Boston
B*d*ss Activists in the Pioneer Valley
Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center
Brazilian Women's Group
Brazilian Worker Center
Cape Cod Coalition for Safe Communities
Cape Cod Women for Change
Centro Presente
Chelsea Collaborative
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
United Neighbors of Fitchburg /
Comité de Vecinos
Woburn Welcomes
Young Cape Verdean Club, Inc.
YWCA Central MA

Educational

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
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
Brocton 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
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,
Massachusetts

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
Cape Cod Women for Change
Florence Resist
Forward MA
Greater Boston Young Democrats
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