

Safe Communities

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

Sen. Eldridge, *SD1596* | Rep. Matias, *HD3052*

Throughout our history, Massachusetts has led the way on civil and human rights. Today, we need to stand up for our core values once again. The Safe Communities Act would protect all state residents by guaranteeing that our tax dollars are not used to help deport immigrant families or create a Muslim registry.

The Safe Communities Act would:



Say NO to any Muslim registry

Prohibit Massachusetts law enforcement agencies and the RMV from providing information to any federal registry program based on ethnicity, religion or other protected identity.

Guarantee basic due process rights

Require notice to immigrant detainees of their legal rights – in a language they understand.

Focus police on crime, not deportation

State, local and campus police should not participate in federal immigration enforcement activities, including investigations, raids, arrests or detentions that are based solely on immigration status. Nor should Massachusetts agree to let the U.S. Department of Homeland Security deputize state and local officers as immigration agents. When police act as ICE agents, victims and witnesses of crime are afraid to call police, which makes us all less safe.

Protect Massachusetts families

Most immigrant families in the Commonwealth are “mixed status” families – which means that different members have different immigration statuses. Many have U.S. citizen children. Our law enforcement officials should not help separate people from their children and family members through deportation.

Conform to federal law

The bill complies with federal laws that prohibits on state and local governments from restricting the exchange of information about citizenship or immigration status.

Uphold the constitution

The bill ensures that constitutional principles are upheld equally for citizens and non-citizens alike. It would not affect police ability to arrest or detain a person in the course of a criminal investigation or prosecution supported by probable cause, which is the constitutional standard that applies to all people in the Commonwealth.

