

You shall treat the stranger who resides with you as the native-born among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Creator your G-d.

-Leviticus 19:34

You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

-Exodus 22:21

Because of our dedication to immigrants' rights and human dignity, we here at the NE JLC strongly support the [Safe Communities Act](#).

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 critically important bill is sponsored by State Sen. Jamie Eldridge (S.1305) and State Rep. Juana Matías (H.3269).



We encourage you to call the following people to voice your support for Safe Communities Act:

- Your State Senator and Representative. [Click here to find your State Senator and Representative](#) and [click here to see if your State Senator/Representative has officially co-sponsored the bill](#).
 - Governor Baker, who currently opposes the bill. Most recently, he has stated support for individual towns' sanctuary city status, but opposes statewide sanctuary. Governor Baker's phone number is (617) 725-4005 and his TTY is (617) 727-3666.
 - Your Mayor. Mayoral support will encourage House Speaker DeLeo to support the bill. Below are sample scripts for calling each of these elected officials, as well as tips for making such calls.
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Tips for calling your legislators:

- Be concise. It's fine to simply read from the script. Let the staffer/aide know you're a constituent.
 - Be kind but direct with the staffers who you speak to.
 - Thank the aide or staffer who takes your call for their time.
 - If calling your legislator makes you anxious or nervous, check out this helpful guide.
 - If you can, email us and let us know that you called so we know how many JLC members took action at newenglandjlc@gmail.com.
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Sample script for Senators/Representatives are co-sponsors of the bill:

Good morning/afternoon. My name is [*your name*]. I'm a constituent of Senator/Representative [*name*] and I live in [*town/zip code*]. I'm calling to thank Senator/Representative [*name*] for co-sponsoring the Safe Communities Act, sponsored by Senator Jamie Eldridge (S.1305) and Representative Juana Matías (H.3269). This bill would protect the civil rights of all state residents by making sure our tax dollars are not used to help the Trump administration deport immigrants and create a Muslim registry.

Protecting immigrants and opposing a Muslim registry are important issues to me as a voter and I appreciate the Senator/Representative's leadership on these issues. Thank you.

Sample script for Senators/Representatives who have not yet stated public support for the bill or have stated opposition:

Good morning/afternoon. My name is [*your name*]. I'm a constituent of Senator/Representative [*name*] and I live in [*town/zip code*]. I'm calling to ask Senator/Representative [*name*] to co-sponsor the Safe Communities Act, sponsored by Senator Jamie Eldridge (S.1305) and Representative Juana Matías (H.3269). This bill would protect the civil rights of all state residents by making sure our tax dollars are not used to help the Trump administration deport immigrants and create a Muslim registry.

We need our legislators to be courageous and support immigrants and Muslims in our communities.

Can I count on the [*Senator / Representative*]'s support? [Be sure to give the bills numbers: S.1305 and H.3269]

Sample script for Governor Baker:

Good morning/afternoon. My name is *[your name]*. I'm a Massachusetts resident and I live in *[town/zip code]*. I'm calling to ask Governor Baker to support the Safe Communities Act, sponsored by Senator Jamie Eldridge (S.1305) and Representative Juana Matías (H.3269). This bill would protect the civil rights of all state residents by making sure our tax dollars are not used to help the Trump administration deport immigrants and create a Muslim registry. We need uniform protection of immigrants and Muslims throughout the state. Governor Baker's proposal for a patchwork of town-by-town patchwork creates chaos and hurts our state's residents.

Can I count on the Governor's support for the Safe Communities Act and all Massachusetts residents? [Be sure to give the bills numbers: S.1305 and H.3269]

Sample script for your mayor:

Good morning/afternoon. My name is *[your name]*. I'm a *[town/city name]* resident and I live in *[zip code]*. I'm calling to ask Mayor *[name]* to issue a public statement in support the Safe Communities Act, sponsored by Senator Jamie Eldridge (S.1305) and Representative Juana Matías (H.3269).

This bill would protect the civil rights of all state residents by making sure our tax dollars are not used to help the Trump administration deport immigrants and create a Muslim registry. Mayoral support will help advance this bill at the state level.

Can I count on the Mayor's leadership in supporting the Safe Communities Act and all Massachusetts residents? [Be sure to give the bills numbers: S.1305 and H.3269]

KEY FEATURES OF THE SAFE COMMUNITIES ACT

- **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.
- **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.

- **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.**
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.

**Image via United We Dream (www.heretostay.org).*

More resources:

- MIRA (Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy) Coalition general information and resources on the Safe Communities Act: <https://www.miracoalition.org/safe-communities>
- MIRA Coalition Fact Sheet: <https://www.miracoalition.org/images/Documents/MIRA.SafeCommunities.FactSheet.pdf>
- List of Safe Communities Act legislative sponsors list: <https://www.miracoalition.org/images/Documents/SCA.LegislativeCosponsors.pdf>