

# MASSACHUSETTS SAFE COMMUNITIES COALITION

FACEBOOK.COM/SAFECOMMUNITIESMA

## Positive Messaging Guidance

The Safe Communities Act would end police and court involvement in deportations, protect basic rights for non-citizens, and create uniform guidelines for police interactions with Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

1) **We should use state and local law enforcement resources to protect public safety.** •

Immigration enforcement is not our job. It's a distraction, and **it's costly**.

- Local law enforcement should be using limited state resources to **keep our communities safe** – not do the job of the federal government.
- 287(g) agreements turn sheriffs into ICE agents **on the state dime**.
- These agreements mean that the state is actually **paying** to distract local law enforcement from their core mission and job, making us all less safe.

2) **Policies that strengthen relationships with law enforcement make everyone safer.** • **Our communities are safer** when victims and witnesses are *not* afraid to come forward to report crimes. **More fear equals:** more workplace injuries, more uninhabitable dwellings, more unvaccinated children and untreated medical conditions.

- **That's why police chiefs across Massachusetts agree** that local police officers *should not ask* about immigration status. **BUT we need clear standards:** the current patchwork of policies (different across municipalities) sow confusion and fear.

3) **The Safe Communities Act preserves the integrity of our justice system:**

- The bill expressly allows law enforcement to notify ICE when person is released from custody at the end of their sentence, not before. This preserves access to justice for victims, witnesses, and defendants.

4) **The Safe Communities Act keeps families together.**

- We have all seen the horrendous family separation happening at the federal level along the southern border. Family separation **happens here in Massachusetts every time a parent is deported**. • Most immigrant families include US citizens and people with varied immigration statuses. • When we collaborate with ICE, we're breaking those families apart.
- No child should lose a parent because local officials are dabbling in immigration enforcement – the job of the federal government.

5) **Safety and concern for our whole community are Massachusetts' values.** • Massachusetts has a long tradition of standing up for the dignity of all. In the face of the Trump administration's continuous attacks on immigrants, we need to embody those values, not abandon them.

6) **The primary intent of the bill is to ensure that everyone in Massachusetts is safer:**

- When communities have strong relationships with law enforcement - more crime is reported, and people seek necessary help and medical care.
- Local law enforcement focus their limited resources and time on ensuring the safety of our communities and enforcing local laws.