



Legislation Summary:

An Act to protect the civil rights and safety of all Massachusetts residents

Initial bill number: [S1305/H3269](#) (Bill numbers will change as legislation proceeds.)

Sponsors: Sen. James Eldridge, Rep. Juana Matias

This bill, known as the "Safe Communities Act," would protect the civil rights of all state residents by making sure local law enforcement officials and local resources are not used to identify, register and deport undocumented immigrants who pose no known threat.

In general, with some exceptions, the bill:

- Prohibits law enforcement agency (state, local and campus police) from using funds, resources, facilities, property, equipment, or personnel for immigration detention purposes.
- Prohibits law enforcement agency from inquiring about a person's immigration status.
- Prohibits access to information in state databases (including RMV) for use in any federal registry program based on race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or national origin.
- Law enforcement agencies may not participate in immigration enforcement activities, including inquiries, investigations, raids, arrests or detentions that are based solely on immigration status.
- Prohibits agreements with local officers to perform the functions of an immigration officer as immigration agents.
- Ensures basic due process rights for people detained in state and local facilities for civil immigration violations. Requires informing detainees 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.

League position: LWVUS "League Statement on Immigration" press release (January 31, 2017)

Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters president, Chris Carson, issued the following statement in response to President Trump's immigration ban:

"The League of Women Voters is opposed to deportation of non-criminal undocumented immigrants.

The League supports cities, towns, counties and states that make a decision not to cooperate with federal deportation and enforcement actions that include non-criminal undocumented immigrants. Moreover, the Trump Administration's orders are of dubious legality.

It is simply wrong, and a perversion of the American system of justice, for the Executive Branch to refuse to obey federal court orders.

The LWV is opposed to discrimination, including discrimination in immigration, based on religion. The Trump Administration's orders appear to be targeted at Muslims and immigrants from majority-Muslim nations."