LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

MASSACHUSETTS

Legislation Summary:

An Act relative to immigration detention and collaboration agreements (Dignity not Deportation)

Initial bill number(s) H.1588/S.1122

Sponsors: Rep. Christine Barber, Rep. David Rogers, and Sen. Adam Gomez

What the bill does, why LWVMA supports or opposes it, and the League position relative to this bill.

This bill would end all detention agreements with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement), including 287(g) agreements, which deputize local, county, and state authorities to enforce federal immigration law, and IGSA agreements (Intergovernmental Service Agreements), which allow sheriffs to rent a section of their jails to house immigration detainees. Collaboration agreements would end 30 days after enactment of the bill, and detention agreements would end 90 days after enactment. Currently, whether or not these agreements get signed and/or renewed is entirely up to the sheriff, with no state oversight. This bill requires that, in the future, any agreement that a sheriff might want to sign would have to first be approved by the Governor.

By ending detention agreements between federal immigration law enforcement and state and local law enforcement, this bill would help protect immigrant families from the harsh consequences that can result from even a minor interaction with immigration officials…detention, deportation, family separation. Massachusetts officials should not be carrying out federal immigration law enforcement, nor should local resources be used for this purpose.

LWVMA supports this bill. The League believes that no one should live in fear of deportation and family separation and that state and local law enforcement officials should have no role in federal immigration law enforcement. “The League opposes the deputizing of state and local police to enforce immigration laws in Massachusetts.” *Where We Stand*, p. 50.