



Needham Area Immigration Justice Task Force

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**Testimony submitted to the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
An Act Relative to Protect the Civil Rights and Safety of all MA Residents
Safe Communities Act (SCA)
H.2580/S.1681**

Sponsors: Rep. Manny Cruz, Rep. Priscila Sousa, and Sen. Jamie Eldridge, Sen. Liz Miranda
Hearing November 25, 2025

Submitted by the Needham Area Immigration Justice Task Force; Cheryl Aglio-Girelli and Valerie Kistler, Co-Chairs; Karen Price, Legislative Liaison

The mission of the Needham Area Immigration Justice Task Force is to encourage dialogue and raise awareness within Needham and the region regarding immigration as a necessary bedrock of a prosperous and growing United States of America. We take action to welcome immigrants, change unjust policies, and ensure fair working conditions and security for families.

We are writing in support of the Safe Communities Act. This bill would significantly impact the well-being of immigrants and their families by requiring due process rights that all residents deserve, regardless of immigration status, as well as offering protection and safeguards from the current administration's heavy-handed immigration enforcement activities.

Members of our Task Force have observed numerous ICE arrests during watches and standouts, each revealing that there is no such thing as a non-violent arrest. We have witnessed what is likely one of the most frightening and life-altering events a person could endure. The Safe Communities Act seeks to ensure that immigrant residents receive basic due process protections. As the federal government continues to disregard due process, the state must act.

Current state and local involvement in federal immigration law enforcement discourages immigrants from seeking police and court protection when they need it. Victims of domestic violence, wage theft, and unsafe working conditions are reluctant to come forward, afraid that seeking help will result in deportation and family separation.

All Massachusetts residents will benefit from the passage of this bill, and we encourage the Joint Committee to approve it.