



Needham Area Immigration Justice Task Force

www.immigrationneedham.org

Testimony submitted to the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security

An Act promoting rule of law, oversight, trust, and equal constitutional treatment

“PROTECT ACT”

H.5851

Sponsors: Rep. Andres X. Vargas, Rep. Judith Garcia

Hearing March 18, 2026

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 “An Act promoting rule of law, oversight, trust, and equal constitutional treatment,” known as the “PROTECT ACT” (H.5851)

We are grateful to the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus (MBLLC) for providing a comprehensive bill that addresses many of the egregious acts routinely carried out by federal agents in their efforts to apprehend our law-abiding immigrant neighbors without due process.

We are especially in support of keeping our courts safe for immigrants who are required to appear for a variety of reasons. Several of our members have witnessed heart-wrenching apprehensions of immigrant neighbors as they arrived at court for routine immigration check-ins.

The other areas the Act covers are equally important, such as banning formal collaboration with ICE, a ban on new 287(g) agreements between local and state police and ICE, and limiting information-sharing with ICE.

The Needham Area Immigration Justice Task Force supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, to counsel, and to humane treatment.

We urge the committee to act as quickly as possible to put these protections in place to make our Commonwealth as safe as possible for all residents.