

## Needham Area Immigration Justice Task Force

Monday, March 10, 2025

Discussion with Rep. Josh Tarsky of five MA bills the Task Force is supporting:

|                      |                                                                                                      |                                                                                                     |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HD.3596 /<br>SD.1107 | <i>An Act to Prevent Immigration Detention and Collaboration Agreements</i>                          | <a href="https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD3596">https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD3596</a> |
| HD.3816/<br>SD.1670  | <i>An Act to Protect the Civil Rights and Safety of All Massachusetts Residents</i>                  | <a href="https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD3816">https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD3816</a> |
| HD.4072/<br>SD.2057  | <i>An Act Ensuring Access to Equitable Representation in Immigration Proceedings</i>                 | <a href="https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD4072">https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD4072</a> |
| HD.706/<br>SD.466    | <i>An Act to protect injured workers</i>                                                             | <a href="https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD706">https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD706</a>   |
| HD.1828/<br>SD.1802  | <i>An Act to prevent wage theft, promote employer accountability, and enhance public enforcement</i> | <a href="https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD1828">https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD1828</a> |

### State Representative Joshua Tarsky

13th Norfolk - Dover, Medfield (Precincts 1 and 2) and Needham.

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#### Committees

- House Committee on Climate Action and Sustainability
- Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government
- Joint Committee on Public Service
- Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs

#### Biography

Representative Tarsky matriculated to Yale University in the Fall of 2001, and his life's trajectory changed on September 11th. He couldn't quite shake the question "why not me?" and upon graduation he enlisted in the US Army as a Special Forces (Green Beret) soldier, serving two tours in Afghanistan and one in Honduras. Throughout his military service, Josh saw firsthand how crucial sound laws and a strong education system are to a society's well-being.

Returning stateside, he earned a Master's in Education from Harvard University and a Juris Doctorate from Suffolk University while working as an English and English as a Second Language teacher at Lawrence High School. He then transitioned to school administration, serving as Assistant Principal of Sandwich High and then Principal of Holbrook Middle-High School, until being elected as State Representative of the 13th Norfolk District.

He continues his military service as a Major and Judge Advocate General in the Massachusetts National Guard.

# DIGNITY NOT DEPORTATIONS

## SAY NO TO TRUMP'S MASS DEPORTATION AGENDA; END ICE CONTRACTS IN MA

HD3596 & SD1107 | Rep. Christine Barber, Rep. David Rogers & Sen. Adam Gomez

### MASS DETENTION = MASS DEPORTATIONS

The Trump administration has pledged to deport millions of our friends, family members, employees, and neighbors around the country, including here in Massachusetts. **This would tear our communities apart, trample on our fundamental freedoms, and devastate our economy.**

To carry out its agenda, the Trump administration has vowed to dramatically increase immigration detention and to co-opt local officials as additional manpower. Indeed, the administration immediately issued Executive Orders that attempt to fulfill this promise. Without mass detention, there can be no mass deportation.

State officials cannot change federal immigration policy, but basic constitutional principles make clear: they don't have to voluntarily contribute to its cruelty. The Dignity Not Deportations Act will help guard against the abuse of power by federal ICE agents, ensure that our Commonwealth remains true to its values, and continue to safeguard state resources.

### ICE DETENTION

ICE relies on a sprawling network of detention facilities around the country, bolstered by voluntary contracts allowing ICE to rent beds in local jails. Research shows that the availability of bed space drives ICE's arrest numbers: the more detention beds available in a given area, the more likely immigrants are to be detained and deported by ICE.

ICE detention is civil, not criminal. People held by ICE are not serving sentences — ICE simply wants to deport them.

### THE BILL

*The Dignity Not Deportations Act would:*

- Prohibit Massachusetts entities, including sheriffs, from voluntarily renting beds to ICE.
- Prohibit Massachusetts entities from donating time and volunteering state resources to ICE by signing contracts — such as 287(g) agreements — that deputize local officials as ICE agents.

To learn more or take action, visit [aclum.org](https://aclum.org)

In Massachusetts, hundreds of immigrant community members are held every day at the Plymouth County Jail. Despite longstanding complaints from advocates about inhumane conditions, the sheriff recently renewed the contract with ICE, increasing the number of Massachusetts beds used to facilitate federal deportation.

Nothing in current law prohibits more sheriffs — or any other local or state entities — from renting more detention space and signing new contracts with ICE.

By limiting detention space available to ICE in state and local facilities in Massachusetts, the Dignity Not Deportations Act will limit Massachusetts' role in mass deportations.



## 287(G) AGREEMENTS

Mass deportation plans rely on voluntary state and local collaboration. ICE officials may seek to deputize local Massachusetts officials in order to grant them federal immigration powers through so-called “287(g) agreements” or similar arrangements.

287(g) agreements are unique in that local officials are not compensated for their time as federal deputies. The arrangement relies entirely on state and local officials voluntarily donating their time to ICE. The Massachusetts Department of Corrections is currently the only agency in New England with a 287(g) agreement.

Our Commonwealth is not required to voluntarily support ICE's ruthless federal deportation machine. Instead, Massachusetts leaders must end the existing 287(g) agreement and prohibit state agencies and sheriffs from signing new agreements.

By ending the current 287(g) agreement and outlawing new ones, Massachusetts can conserve state resources for building our Commonwealth.



**SAY NO TO MASS DEPORTATION IN MASSACHUSETTS;  
PASS THE DIGNITY NOT DEPORTATION ACT!**

## **Support the Safe Communities Act**

[SD.1670](#) (Sens. Eldridge and Miranda), [HD.3816](#) (Reps. Cruz and Sousa)

### **Because civil immigration enforcement is not our job.**

The new federal administration will use every tool available to deport members of our immigrant communities, including our police and courts. This misuse of public safety resources drives a wedge between immigrant communities and the public institutions that protect and serve them. That's why the Safe Communities Act has earned the support of police chiefs and district attorneys across the state.

**It's time to end the involvement of our public safety officials in civil immigration matters. The Safe Communities Act would:**

#### **Prohibit questioning by court and police officials about immigration status.**

Enables immigrant workers, domestic violence survivors, tenants, and others to report exploitation, abuse and other crimes to public safety authorities without fear of immigration consequences.

#### **Protect basic rights, just like a "Miranda" warning.**

Requires our police, court and correctional personnel to obtain written, informed consent before ICE interviews someone in their custody, to ensure that immigrants know their right to decline such interviews or to have their own attorney present. Without these safeguards, people often jeopardize their immigration cases – even signing their own deportation orders.

#### **Protect access to justice in our courts.**

Current practice encourages ICE to detain people before they have their day in court, denying justice to victims and defendants alike. The SCA prohibits police, court, and correctional officials from initiating contact with ICE about a person's pending release from custody, except at the end of a sentence of incarceration. **It does not otherwise restrict communications with ICE, in conformity with federal law.**

#### **Prohibit agreements that deputize local officials as federal immigration agents, at state taxpayers' expense.**

287(g) contracts with ICE damage the relationship between immigrant communities and law enforcement. And they are expensive. Barnstable, Bristol, and Plymouth county sheriffs have declined to continue these contracts, leaving the MA Department of Corrections as the sole outlier. Nationally, only 5 state DOCs have 287(g) contracts. The other four are Alaska, Arizona, Florida, and Georgia.

**California, Connecticut, Illinois, New Jersey, Oregon, and Washington State have all enacted laws that keep local law enforcement focused on public safety, not civil immigration enforcement.**

**It's time Massachusetts joined them.**



## STATEWIDE ENDORSING ORGANIZATIONS

|                                                        |                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| ACLU of Massachusetts                                  | Massachusetts Bar Association                                 |
| Act on Massachusetts                                   | Massachusetts Business Immigration Coalition                  |
| American Academy of Pediatrics – MA Chapter            | Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education                   |
| American College of Physicians – MA Chapter            | Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women               |
| American Friends Service Committee – New England       | Massachusetts Communities Action Network                      |
| American Immigration Lawyers Assn. New England Chapter | Massachusetts High School Democrats                           |
| American Jewish Committee – New England                | Massachusetts Jobs with Justice                               |
| Amnesty International USA, Boston Field Office         | Massachusetts Law Reform Institute                            |
| Anti-Defamation League (ADL) New England               | Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers              |
| Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence             | Massachusetts Medical Society                                 |
| Association of Haitian Pastors of New England          | Massachusetts Public Health Association                       |
| Better Future Project & 350 Massachusetts              | Massachusetts Teachers Association                            |
| Committee for Public Counsel Services                  | Massachusetts Voter Table                                     |
| Council on American-Islamic Relations – MA             | MGH Executive Committee on Community Health                   |
| Digital Fourth                                         | Muslim Justice League                                         |
| EMPath                                                 | National Association of Social Workers – MA                   |
| Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Massachusetts  | National Organization for Women (NOW) MA                      |
| Health Care for All                                    | New England Justice for Our Neighbors                         |
| Health Law Advocates, Inc.                             | Northeast Organic Farming Association – MA                    |
| Indivisible Massachusetts                              | Oxfam America                                                 |
| International Institute of New England                 | Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund of Massachusetts             |
| Jane Doe, Inc.                                         | ProGente Connections                                          |
| Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action (JALSA)      | Progressive Massachusetts                                     |
| Jewish Family & Children's Service                     | Project Citizenship                                           |
| Jewish Voice for Peace Boston                          | Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts              |
| Justice Resource Institute                             | Rian Immigrant Center (formerly Irish Int'l Immigrant Center) |
| Latinos Unidos de Massachusetts                        | SEIU 1199                                                     |
| Lawyers for Civil Rights                               | SEIU 32BJ                                                     |
| League of Women Voters of Massachusetts                | SEIU State Council                                            |
| MA Educators of English Language Learners (MATSOL)     | The African Council (TAC)                                     |
| MA Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)       | Unitarian Universalist Mass Action                            |
| Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers          | Women's Bar Association of Massachusetts                      |
| Massachusetts Asian American Commission                | Young Democrats of Massachusetts                              |

## REGIONAL/LOCAL ENDORSING ORGANIZATIONS

|                                                          |                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| ACLU of MA Immigrant Protection Project of Western MA    | Brazilian Women's Group                        |
| Acton Democratic Town Committee                          | Brazilian Worker Center                        |
| Agencia ALPHA                                            | Bristol County for Correctional Justice        |
| Alliance for Immigration Justice                         | Brockton Interfaith Community                  |
| Arlington-Teosinte Sister City Project                   | Brockton Workers Alliance                      |
| Association of Haitian Women in Boston                   | Brookline for Racial Justice and Equity        |
| Belchertown Voices for Justice                           | Business Innovation Center                     |
| Berkshire Interfaith Organizing                          | Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee, Inc. |
| Black and Pink                                           | Cambridge United for Justice with Peace        |
| Boston Area Rape Crisis Center                           | Cape Ann Local Action                          |
| Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center                     | Cape Cod Coalition for Safe Communities        |
| Boston Democratic Socialists of America                  | Cape Cod Women for Change                      |
| Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network (BIJAN) | Cape Women's Coalition                         |
| Boston Teachers Union/Unafraid Educators                 | Casa Myrna Vazquez                             |
| Boston Worker's Circle                                   | Chelsea Collaborative                          |

Central West Justice Center  
 Clinicians for Healthy Families  
 Coalition for Social Justice  
 Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador  
 Committee of Refugees from El Salvador  
 Community Action Agency of Somerville  
 Community Economic Development Center of SE MA  
 Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA)  
 De Novo  
 Democratic State Committee  
 Diocese Saint Francis of Assisi CCA  
 Dominican Development Center  
 Dorchester People for Peace  
 East Boston Neighborhood Health Center  
 Easthampton Community Coalition  
 Enroot  
 Episcopal City Mission  
 Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts  
 Essex County Community Organization (ECCO)  
 First Literacy  
 Franciscan Order of Saint Joseph Cupertino  
 FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, Harvard Univ.  
 Gloucester Coalition for the Prevention of Domestic Abuse  
 Greater Andover Indivisible  
 Greater Boston Interfaith Organization  
 Greater Boston PFLAG  
 Greater Lawrence Community Action Council  
 Groundwork Lawrence  
 Haitian-Americans United, Inc.  
 HarborCOV  
 Harvard Graduate Students' Union  
 Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program  
 Healing Abuse Working for Change (HAWC)  
 Health & Law Immigrant Solidarity Network  
 Health Imperatives  
 Immigrant and Refugee Health Program at BMC  
 Immigrant Integration Lab at BC School of Social Work  
 Immigrant Service Providers Group/Health  
 Immigrants' Assistance Center  
 Immigration Pastoral Center, Inc.  
 Indivisible Acton Area  
 Interfaith Justice Cmte-Fed Church and Am HaYam Havurah  
 Ipswich Trust Act  
 Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston  
 Jewish Vocational Service  
 JP Progressives Immigrant Rights Action Group  
 Justice Center of Southeast Massachusetts  
 La Comunidad, Inc.  
 Lawrence CommunityWorks  
 Lower Cape Indivisible Steering Team  
 Lynn Community Health Center  
 Lynn United for Change  
 Lynn Worker Center  
 MAPA Translations, Inc.  
 Maynard Welcomes You  
 Merrimack Valley Project  
 MGH Chelsea HealthCare Center  
 MGH Revere HealthCare Center  
 Minuteman Indivisible  
 Mystic Valley Indivisible  
 Nauset Interfaith Association

Needham Task Force on Immigration  
 Neponset Valley Progressives  
 Network for Social Justice  
 New Hope, Inc.  
 Newton Democratic City Committee  
 Northeastern Univ. School of Law – Student Bar Association  
 Old Cambridge Baptist Church  
 Our Revolution Cambridge  
 Our Revolution Cape Cod Affiliate (ORCCA)  
 Our Revolution Somerville  
 Paulist Center Immigration Advocacy Group  
 Phillips Brooks House Association at Harvard  
 Pioneer Valley Project  
 Point Neighborhood Association  
 Political Asylum & Immig. Representation Project (PAIR)  
 Prgm. on Human Rts. in the Global Economy, NEU Law  
 Progressive Needham  
 Progressive West Roxbury/Roslindale  
 Racial Justice Team, North Parish of N. Andover UU  
 REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, Inc.  
 Revere Immigrant Solidarity Network  
 Roca, Inc.  
 Rosie's Place  
 Roslindale is for Everyone (RISE)  
 Saheli, Support and Friendship for So. Asian Women & Families  
 Salem No Place for Hate Committee  
 September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrow  
 Showing Up for Racial Justice – North Central Massachusetts  
 Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston  
 Sneakers Laced Up South Shore  
 Social and Racial Justice at St. Cecilia's Parish  
 Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Fall River Diocesan and the  
 Attleboro District Councils  
 Solidarity Lowell  
 South Shore Action  
 St. Stephen's Youth Programs  
 Temple Aliya Social Action  
 Temple Beth Shalom Tzedek Committee  
 Temple Sinai Social Justice Comte / Sharon Interfaith Action  
 The Real Cost of Prisons Project  
 The Resistance Center for Peace and Justice  
 The Right to Immigration Institute  
 The Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven  
 The Welcome Project  
 Three Rivers Affinity Group(TRAG)  
 UFCW Local 1445  
 United American Indians of New England (UAINE)  
 United Interfaith Action of Southeastern MA  
 WATCH CDC  
 Watertown Citizens for Peace  
 Westport Friends Meeting Quakers  
 Women Encouraging Empowerment (WEE)  
 Worcester Interfaith  
 Young Cape Verdean Club, Inc.  
 YWCA Cambridge  
 YWCA Central Massachusetts

## Support the Immigrant Legal Defense Act

*An Act Ensuring Access to Equitable Representation in Immigration Proceedings*

[SD.2057](#) (Sen. Gomez) and [HD.4072](#) (Reps. Rogers, F. Moran)

With a federal administration committed to the mass detention and deportation of immigrants, and a new Congress actively stripping away existing rights and privileges, the Commonwealth must urgently intervene to prevent the deportation of immigrants who live, work and pay taxes in Massachusetts.

**The Immigrant Legal Defense Act would create a public and private-funded program to provide no-cost immigration legal defense to immigrants in Massachusetts who are at imminent risk of deportation, especially those held in federal immigration detention.**

### FACTS:

In immigration court, having an attorney is critical protection against deportation and permanent family separation. There is no right to a government-paid lawyer in immigration court. Those who cannot afford a lawyer must navigate our complex immigration proceedings alone.



Immigrants are 5 times more likely to win relief from deportation if they are represented by counsel. **In Massachusetts, 55% of immigrants with pending cases are navigating their proceedings without a lawyer.**

Detained immigrants with a lawyer are 10 times more likely to win relief than are detained immigrants without one. **There are 369 people in federal immigration detention in Massachusetts as of January 2025.**

Similar programs exist in California, Colorado, Illinois, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, and Washington.

### THE SOLUTION: The Immigrant Legal Defense Act would:

- ✓ Subject to appropriation, **require the Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants (ORI) to grant funds to qualified immigration legal service providers** and the nonprofit organizations and law firms who employ them to provide no-cost legal defense to eligible low-income immigrants.
- ✓ **Develop a statewide system** of immigration legal representation coordinated by an existing or established nonprofit organization identified by ORI, which will provide rigorous screening and assigning of cases and beneficiaries.
- ✓ **Establish an advisory board** to include representation by the Committee for Public Counsel Services, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, MIRA Coalition, and at least three community-based organizations that directly serve immigrant populations.

***An Act to protect injured workers* HD.706/SD.466 (Rep Nguyen; Sen Eldridge)**

- No person or entity may discharge, refuse to hire, or in any other manner discriminate or take adverse action, against any person seeking care for work-related injuries.
- Strengthens the existing law by allowing the attorney general to enforce complaints of misconduct or retaliation and giving employees the ability to collect damages.

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD706>

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2024/04/14/business/workers-comp-retaliation-bill-injured/>



## **An Act to prevent wage theft, promote employer accountability, and enhance public enforcement HD.1828/SD.1802 (2025-26); Rep Donahue; Sen DiDomenico**

- Protects workers from common wage theft violations such as failure to pay wages, failure to pay at least the minimum wage, and failure to abide by overtime laws
- Protects workers from independent contractor misclassification, ensuring workers are able to receive the benefits they are entitled to
- Protects workers against retaliation from their employer for reporting violations, and increases the power of the Attorney General's office to enforce wage theft laws

Nearly \$700 million in wages are stolen from about 350,000 low-wage workers each year in Massachusetts.

Wage theft covers a variety of infractions that occur when workers do not receive their legally required or promised wages. Common forms of wage theft are:

- Non-payment of overtime
- Not giving workers their last paycheck after a worker leaves a job
- Not paying for all the hours worked

In today's economy, where employers increasingly subcontract or outsource core parts of their business to other companies, wage theft has overwhelmed the capacity of our existing labor laws and enforcement mechanics.

This bill would:

- **Increase Responsibility:** Holds "lead contractors" accountable for the wage theft violations of their subcontractors.
- **Protects Wage Rights:** Protects workers from wage theft violations such as failure to make wage payments; failure to abide by minimum wage, prevailing wage and overtime laws; and independent contractor misclassification.
- **Protect Workers against retaliation** for reporting wage violations.
- **Improve Government Enforcement:** Streamlines the enforcement power of the Attorney General's office by allowing it to bring wage theft cases directly to court and seek damages on behalf of workers.
- **Allow a Stop Work Order:** In cases where there has been a determination of a wage theft violation, the AG will have the power to issue a "Stop Work Order," which temporarily halts work until the violation is corrected.

Copied from prior session fact sheet.

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD1828>

<https://www.boston.com/news/local-news/2024/02/27/attorney-general-continues-fight-against-growing-wage-theft-in-mass/>