

An Act to Protect the Civil Rights and Safety of All Massachusetts Residents (S.1401/H.3573 Safe Communities Act)

This bill is sponsored by Senator James Eldridge and Representatives Ruth Balser and Liz Miranda and would prevent local law enforcement from asking about a person's immigration status unless it is required by law. It would also ensure that any person detained understands their rights and has an attorney available to them. It would not interfere with the work of Immigrant & Customs Enforcement (ICE). Protecting this sense of safety in our immigrant and refugee communities is crucial to the overall health and safety of our community, and thus our patients.

This bill has a lot of support, but there remain legislators who have not co-sponsored the bill or who may be opposed. We ask each of you to reach out to your legislators, however, advocacy from constituents of legislators who have not yet indicated support for this bill will be particularly important. Here are the co-sponsorship lists: [Representatives](#) and [Senators](#). To find the contact information for your legislator, please search [HERE](#).

Bill information: <https://www.miracoalition.org/safe-communities>
https://www.acponline.org/system/files/documents/about_acp/chapters/ma/advocacy_day_-_s.1401-h.3573_safe_communities_act.pdf

Email Template:

Dear [insert Senator or Representative] [insert name],

I am an internal medicine physician practicing in [insert town] and a member of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP). Our chapter represents 4,200 physicians across Massachusetts, and we are the largest medical specialty organization with 159,000 members worldwide.

The impact of immigrant safety cannot be understated as Massachusetts has over 700,000 immigrants living in the state. Due to concerns about safety, there is an increasing number of immigrant patients fearful of accessing healthcare services and trusting the local police. This is why we ask [insert your senator or rep name] to co-sponsor An Act to Protect the Civil Rights and Safety of All Massachusetts Residents (S.1401/H.3573 Safe Communities Act).

[Insert patient story. For example: A patient who was not able to be seen or obtain health care due to ICE/police detention.]

We believe now is the time for the State legislature to take a strong position to support the role that immigrants play in our communities by co-sponsoring the Safe Communities Act. This bill would ensure that immigrant communities are able to attend their medical appointments and receive care without fear of criminal persecution due solely to their immigration status. This is a crucial step in maintaining the public health and safety of Massachusetts.

In summary, I would like to thank you for your commitment to ensuring all our patients in Massachusetts have access to health care. I urge you to continue our progress and co-sponsor An Act to Protect the Civil Rights and Safety of All Massachusetts Residents (S.1401/H.3573 Safe Communities Act).

Sincerely,

[Insert your name]

Address

Telephone number

Phone script:

Hello,

I am an internal medicine physician practicing in [insert town] and a member of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP). Our chapter represents 4,200 physicians across Massachusetts, and we are the largest medical specialty organization with 159,000 members worldwide.

I am calling to ask [Insert Senator or Rep with name] to support An Act to Protect the Civil Rights and Safety of All Massachusetts Residents (S.1401/H.3573 Safe Communities Act). The impact of immigrant safety cannot be understated as Massachusetts has over 700,000 immigrants living in the state. Due to concerns about safety, there is an increasing number of immigrant patients fearful of accessing healthcare services and trusting the local police.

We believe now is the time for the [Insert House or Senate] to take a strong position to support the role that immigrants play in our communities by supporting the Safe Communities Act. This bill would ensure that immigrant communities are able to come to their medical appointments and receive care without fear of criminal persecution due solely to their immigration status. This is a crucial step in maintaining the public health and safety of Massachusetts.

In summary, I would like to thank the [insert Senator or Representative] for their commitment to ensuring all our patients in Massachusetts have access to health care. I urge you to continue our progress and co-sponsor An Act to Protect the Civil Rights and Safety of All Massachusetts Residents (S.1401/H.3573 Safe Communities Act).