

Dear IMC-CAN Team Action recipient - Feel free to print/share this sheet with your action group and friends.

Here's How To Protect Massachusetts Now

Massachusetts must stop being an accomplice to unconstitutional immigration enforcement. The PROTECT Act is how we draw that line now. The PROTECT Act draws a clear line between Massachusetts and ICE's unlawful and unconstitutional practices, including warrantless arrests, racial profiling, and intimidation in and around courthouses. Allowing 287(g) agreements or informal cooperation turns local police and court staff into extensions of ICE, even when ICE is violating basic due process protections. It erodes trust in every public institution people depend on for safety and justice. When state and local agencies share information or quietly facilitate arrests, families stop reporting crimes, witnesses disappear, and entire communities are pushed into fear. By contacting your state legislator now, you are calling for an end to deputizing local government for immigration enforcement and demanding robust safeguards for civil rights, public safety, and the rule of law. The PROTECT Act won't pass without public pressure. Lawmakers need to hear that we expect Massachusetts to defend constitutional values.

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[ACTION SUMMARY](#)

Estimated time: 5-10 minutes, depending on whether you send an email or call.

- **Read** as much of the [background information](#) below as you wish.
- **Use our link** below to find your legislators and make your call!
- Take 5 minutes and **call or email** your Massachusetts State Representative today to support [HD.5608](#), the "PROTECT Act." Use our script below or personalize your own.
- Ask those you know to do the same.

[SOURCES](#)

[MIRA Coalition](#)

[ACLU of Massachusetts](#)

[ACTION DETAILS](#)

Call your MA House Representative (see scripts below).

- Find your MA State House Representative contact information [HERE](#).
- Determine if your MA Representative is a Petitioner (supporter) of the PROTECT Act [here](#).
Reminder: If they are on the sponsor list(s), they are supporters—please **thank** them.
- IF LEAVING A VOICEMAIL: Please leave your full street address to ensure your call is tallied.
(If you're shy...call after hours...staffers still must log the calls)
- Please personalize all the words in [blue](#).

See the script below and modify it based on whether your House Representative is a sponsor or not.

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“Hello, my name is [\[Your Name\]](#), and I live in [\[Your Town\]](#). I’m calling to urge Representative _____ to support and co-sponsor the PROTECT Act, H.D. 5608.

This bill provides long-overdue protections for our immigrant neighbors. It is important because it protects access to our courts and public institutions by limiting ICE arrests and by preventing state and local resources from being used for federal immigration enforcement.

We need a statewide ban on 287(g) agreements and restrictions on local law enforcement cooperation with ICE. People should be able to go to court, report crimes, and seek help without fear of retaliation. Immigrants in our criminal justice system deserve to know their rights and have access to legal representation. We need stronger protections for victims of human trafficking. The PROTECT Act strengthens due process, public safety, and trust between communities and government.

Given the anticipated surge in ICE activity in Massachusetts, this bill is urgent.

Can you tell me whether the Representative plans to support the PROTECT Act?

(If they have not endorsed the bill) I hope they will publicly endorse it and work for its passage this session.

OR

(If they have endorsed the bill) I want to thank the Representative for their bold leadership.

Thank you for your time.”

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The recent ICE enforcement escalations in Minneapolis and Maine have increased the statewide call for decisive legislative action to curb ICE overreach and provide accountability for ICE misconduct. Major concerns are the (sometimes) cooperative relationship between state/local law enforcement, immigrant access to due process when incarcerated in Massachusetts jails and prisons, and the commonplace ICE practice of stalking and kidnapping immigrants at courthouses are major concerns. Immigrants are unable to safely attend court proceedings, access justice, or protect themselves (e.g., obtaining restraining orders for domestic violence). Currently, local law enforcement (e.g., local police, sheriffs) has the authority to enter into cooperative agreements with federal immigration agencies.

The [Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus filed H.D. 5608 \(“The PROTECT Act”\) on January 28, 2026](#), in response to a sharp increase in ICE misconduct in the region and nationally, and the crisis this is creating in our local communities. Andres X. Vargas and Judith A. Garcia described the bill as the product of months of work with immigrant families and stakeholders, aimed at preserving community trust by keeping state and local agencies focused on public safety rather than civil immigration enforcement.

The bill is designed to limit state and local participation in federal civil immigration enforcement, strengthen due process and equal protections, and protect access to state courthouses for all community members.

[MIRA Coalition Statement](#)

Key Components of the PROTECT Act:

- **Limits** state and local law enforcement from inquiring about a person’s immigration-status unless it is strictly required by law or directly material to investigating a state criminal offense.
- **Bans** local and state law enforcement from using public resources to assist ICE.

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- **Prohibits** sharing certain information with federal immigration authorities. This includes non-public personal information and advance notice of someone's release date/time/location, which can otherwise be used to time civil immigration arrests.
- **Bans** new or renewed agreements deputizing local and state law enforcement (e.g., 287(g) agreements) that deputize law enforcement to act on behalf of ICE.
- **Restricts** ICE arrests around courthouses without a judicial warrant or court order.
- **Bans** court staff cooperation with ICE.
- **Establishes** public reporting requirements for ICE activity in courthouses.
- **Ensures** due process protections (notification of rights, access to counsel, notification of counsel if removed by ICE) for immigrants in the state criminal justice system.
- **Provides** greater protection for immigrants who are victims of human trafficking.
- **Provides** the Attorney General with an enforcement mechanism for violations of the bill.

How does this bill compare to previous immigration bills and the new legislation filed last week by Gov. Maura Healey?

The Safe Communities and Dignity Not Deportations Acts are longstanding legislative efforts that would broadly restrict local law enforcement entanglement with ICE and protect immigrants' civil rights. In contrast, the PROTECT Act is more targeted, zeroing in on procedural safeguards for immigrants, limiting how ICE can function in and around courthouses, and limiting how state/local police can cooperate with ICE.

On 1/29/26, Gov. Healey issued an [Executive Order](#) restricting new 287(g) agreements by state agencies (not local law enforcement) and restricting ICE's access to and use of state facilities. The Executive Order applies only to state agencies and state-owned property, not other locations and agencies. It is worth noting that some of these policy directives will need to be enshrined in state law. The Executive Order outlines directives for state agencies to develop policies to shield "sensitive locations" from ICE enforcement (e.g., schools, hospitals, courthouses, childcare, and places of worship), but these provisions are policy directives, not legislative prohibitions. Gov. Healey has also submitted a companion draft bill to the legislature to codify these restrictions as enforceable law.

The Governor's proposals overlap with the PROTECT Act primarily by restricting ICE access to courthouses. The Healey legislation was filed as part of the supplemental state budget. This proposed legislation, however, would not establish limits on local law enforcement entering into cooperative 287(g) agreements, for example. The PROTECT Act does ban these agreements. The PROTECT Act also includes additional protections for immigrants not included in the Healey Administration proposals.

[Governor Advances Legislation and Executive Order to Curb ICE, 2/2/26](#)

[PROTECT ACT One-Pager Handout, Black and Latino Legislative Caucus](#)

Past IMC-CANs (note: some information in older CANs may not be current)

[Call for State Action Against ICE Misconduct, 1/21/2026](#)

[It's Time to Pass the Safe Communities Act! 11/12/2025](#)

[Melt ICE! Get Prepared. Support LUCE. Contact MA Governor & AG Again 5/14/2025](#)

[BONUS ACTIONS](#)

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