



UPDATES: “SAFE COMMUNITIES,” IMMIGRANT PROTECTIONS

PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS Legislative Agenda 2017-18

on our website: progressivemass.com/sca-budget

The **Progressive Mass Issues Committee** works closely with many coalitions, collaborating with the advocacy orgs that are on the front lines and in-the-weeds on the multitude of issues we care about as progressives. Progressive Mass’s work in coalitions (such as the **Safe Communities Coalition**) is a critical part of how we plug our PM-members, and community at large, into the priorities, actions, updates and information, coming from the experts and advocates. And it is how we in turn bring the energy, values, perspectives of our grassroots organizer/activist-members from across Massachusetts. The PMIC relies on our members and chapters, too, to inform this engagement. Progressive Mass’s priorities are derived from our members, and are coordinated and executed, in many ways, via the PMIC. We invite you to connect with their work and share yours: send a message to issues@progressivemass.com to find out the ways you best can plug in!

UPDATE FROM THE SAFE COMMUNITIES COALITION*

Safe Communities Policies We Can Pass RIGHT NOW Via the Budget:

1

**No Police
Inquiries
about
Immigration
Status**

2

**Stop
Collaborating
with
ICE**

3

**Provide
Basic
Due Process
Protections**

“Safe Communities Act Must Wait”? Our Analysis: There Is NO Excuse

PRES. Trump is increasing ICE’s power, and their indiscriminate, racist, dragnet is deporting mothers, fathers, workers, students, friends, neighbors, and family, sowing terror and fear in our communities.

Massachusetts legislators literally have the power to provide some guarantees of community safety for all of us. **But they have not.**

Rank and file legislators will tell you all kinds of juicy insider tales as to why.... “it is Leadership...” “it is the Governor...” “it is colleagues from “more conservative districts”...” ...

Sorry, no. Our elected legislators are there to serve justice and make laws. Not to please Leadership or pre-concede to racism coming from the corner office or defer to reactionary electoral fears.

And here’s an open secret: “Leadership”’s power is responsive to the members (legislators, rank and file). If members make noise, Leadership will listen.

Legislators have power--*but they have to use it.* They have to get loud and insistent.

We have power--*but we have to use it.* We have to get loud and insist: “Legislators--use your power.”

If they do not, it may be time to make what John Lewis calls “good trouble.” Nothing difficult was ever achieved without it.

* Progressive Mass serves on the steering committee of the SCA Coalition.

The Political Path is Clear

These 3 provisions have broad public support, and extend critical protections to *all* immigrants. ALL are from the Safe Communities Act—and are endorsed by the two MA police chief associations. ALL comply with federal law. Federal law prohibits limiting communications between local and federal agencies about immigration status. It does not require local law enforcement to *collect* this information.

1

No Police Inquiries about Immigration Status

We can prohibit law enforcement agencies from inquiring about a person's immigration status unless required by law.

2

Stop Collaborating with ICE

We can prohibit state and local contracts with ICE - like 287(g) - that deputize law enforcement with the powers to enforce federal immigration law at state expense.

3

Provide Basic Due Process Protections

When ICE wants to interview someone in police custody, we can require police to inform that person of their right to decline an ICE interview and the right to have their own attorney present.

1.

The current climate makes **immigrants vulnerable to exploitation and crime** - domestic violence, wage theft, housing code violations, and other offenses go unreported because of fears that contact with police will lead to deportation and separation from family members, especially children.

2.

Costly **287g agreements, a cornerstone of Trump's expansive deportation project**, co-opt public safety resources for immigration enforcement, and undermine community confidence in law enforcement.

3.

Noncitizens are often unaware that **they have these rights**, which can have dire consequences. "Miranda" warnings are not constitutionally required to be given for civil immigration violations. Our jails are a major entry point into the deportation pipeline. Without these protections, people charged with minor offenses lose the right to challenge their deportation.