



# ISSUE BRIEF

## NO on HD 3269, SB 1305

The Renew MA Coalition strongly opposes the so-called Safe Communities Act, an updated, renamed version of the "Trust Act." This bill seeks to protect criminal illegal aliens by making Massachusetts a sanctuary state.

A positive sounding title cannot shield this bill from what it really is, an usurpation of power from local and state law enforcement officials. Taking away the ability to hold criminal illegal aliens and turn them over to federal authorities only makes our communities and law abiding citizens within them less safe. Local law enforcement departments act as the first line of defense to protect local municipalities. Taking away their ability to request assistance from federal authorities when dealing with criminals with questionable residency status endangers the safety and security of the legal citizens in the communities they serve.

The (un)Safe Communities Act is another in a long line of attempts to normalize and protect criminal illegal aliens. Whether through granting in-state tuition, public benefits or drivers licenses, the most egregious threat to the law abiding citizens of MA may be this session's new version of the Trust Act. The ability to remove individuals who have committed crimes and are in violation of US immigration laws from our communities is paramount to keeping law abiding citizens safe. Instead this would tie the

hands of our local police and create a state-wide safe haven for criminal illegal aliens, regardless of the impact on local residents.

With increasing pressure to crack down on such safe havens from the incoming Trump administration, our state would also risk a great deal of federal funding should this legislation pass. Our commonwealth should stand for fairness, justice, and the rule of law, and support our law enforcement by rejecting the so-called Safe Communities Act.

### QUICK FACTS

#### This Legislation would:

- Tie the hands of Law Enforcement
- Make MA a Safe Haven for more illegal immigration by deportable criminals
- Jeopardize Federal grants for our state
- Make our Communities Less Safe
- Increase the Financial Impact illegal residents have on our state services
- Encourage migration from other, non-sanctuary states to Massachusetts
- Place increased pressure on state taxes and local property taxes



**VOTE NO ON HD 3269, SB 1305**