

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BENJAMIN J. WEBER, RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, JULIA MEJIA, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, PEPÉN, SANTANA AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF IMMIGRANT'S RIGHTS LEGISLATION, INCLUDING THE SAFE COMMUNITIES ACT, THE IMMIGRANT LEGAL DEFENSE ACT, AND THE DIGNITY NOT DEPORTATIONS ACT

- WHEREAS,** Massachusetts and the City of Boston are home to over one million immigrants, many of whom pay taxes and contribute to our economy; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The American Immigration Council estimates that 18.1 percent of the Commonwealth's population is foreign-born, accounting for a significant portion of the state's labor force, including jobs in healthcare, STEM, and entrepreneurship; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Senator Jamie Eldridge and Reps. Priscila Sousa and Manny Cruz have reintroduced legislation prohibiting law enforcement from being deputized as immigration agents; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Furthermore, the legislation, "An Act to protect the civil rights and safety of all Massachusetts residents," known as "the Safe Communities Act," would prohibit law enforcement from inquiring about an individual's immigration status without their consent; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In addition to HD.3816 and SD.1670, Senator Adam Gomez and Reps. David Rogers and Frank Moran have reintroduced "An Act ensuring access to equitable representation in immigration proceedings"; *and*
- WHEREAS,** SD.2057 and HD.4072, known as "the Immigrant Legal Defense Act," would create a fund to provide immigration legal services to eligible immigrants and refugees who lack access to legal representation and are facing removal proceedings from the US; *and*
- WHEREAS,** More than 50 percent of immigrants in Massachusetts lack legal representation in immigration court, and those with attorneys are 10 times more likely to win their cases; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The fund created by this bill would support the work of a nonprofit organization equipped to provide these immigrants with attorneys; *and*

WHEREAS, Sen. Gomez, Rep. Rogers and Rep. Christine Barber have introduced “An Act relative to immigration detention and collaboration agreements” (SD.1107 and HD.3596), also known as “the Dignity Not Deportations Act,” to prohibit Massachusetts entities from voluntarily renting beds to ICE or donating time and resources to ICE by signing contracts that deputize local officials as ICE agents; *and*

WHEREAS, The Safe Communities Act was first introduced in 2017, with the Boston City Council voting to adopt a resolution in support of the Safe Communities Act, sponsored by Councilor Josh Zakim in 2017, and a similar resolution in support of the Act, sponsored by Councilor Ayanna Pressley, in 2018; *and*

WHEREAS, This body reaffirmed its commitment to the Boston Trust Act in 2024, demonstrating that we are a welcoming City to all and recommitting ourselves to protecting our immigrant community in the face of attacks at the federal level; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council supports the Massachusetts Safe Communities Act, the Immigration Legal Defense Act, and the Dignity Not Deportation Act, urging the state legislature and Governor Healey to enact these laws and expeditiously protect our immigrant families from being separated.

Filed on: March 5, 2025