



WHY GOVERNOR ROMNEY'S EFFORT TO USE STATE POLICE AS AN ARM OF FEDERAL IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES UNDERMINES PUBLIC SAFETY IN MASSACHUSETTS

- I. Requiring state police to do the work of federal immigration authorities diverts scarce law enforcement resources away from the work of preventing and investigating real crimes taking place in our communities.**

- II. Requiring state police to do the work of federal immigration authorities undermines community policing and will deter Massachusetts residents from reporting crimes.**
 - Victims of crime will be fearful of reporting crimes. Victims, particularly domestic violence and similar crimes, will be afraid to report crimes to the police if they are concerned about hiding their own or a family-member's immigration status.

 - Witnesses to crime will be fearful of reporting crimes. Community policing works where local police work to gain the trust and confidence of the residents that they are charged with protecting. Using state police to do the work of the federal immigration authorities would undermine the efforts – and successes – of both state and local police (who often work together to solve crimes) as word spreads in newcomer communities that local police are acting as immigration agents. Police officials know that when immigrants and their family members are afraid to report crimes and suspicious activities, crimes go unsolved and the safety of the entire community is compromised.

- III. The proposed approach increases the danger of illegal racial and ethnic profiling.**

There are nearly 11 million naturalized US citizens and more than 25 million native-born citizens of Latin American and Asian descent. In the year 2000, immigrants made up 12.2% of the Massachusetts population, up from 9.5% in 1990. The immigrant population in the Bay State grew by 35% over the course of the decade, reaching

773,000 in 2000. <http://www.massinc.org/index.php?id=381>. According to The Boston Globe, one in seven Massachusetts residents was born in another country. Under Romney's plan, some officers would inevitably stop and question people based on their ethnicity or their accent, leading to violations of the rights of U.S. citizens and legal residents whose only "offense" is looking foreign.

IV. National law enforcement professionals oppose local enforcement of immigration laws:

- State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies Opposed to Local Enforcement of Immigration Law
<http://www.immigrationforum.org/documents/TheDebate/EnforcementLocalPolice/OppositiontoSLEnforcement.pdf>
- International Association of Chiefs of Police Denounce Local Enforcement of Immigration Law.
http://www.theiacp.org/documents/index.cfm?fuseaction=document&document_type_id=7&document_id=634&subtype_id=
- Police chiefs around the country have spoken out against local enforcement of immigration law: <http://www.bordc.org/resources/police.pdf>
- Boston Police Commissioners Kathleen O'Toole & Paul Evans have both spoken out against local enforcement of immigration laws:
<http://www.aclum.org/news/02.14.05.clear.pdf>
- California Police Chiefs Association Letter to the Attorney General of the United States opposing local enforcement of federal immigration law:
<http://www.immigrationforum.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=283>
- Florida Police Chiefs Association Resolution Opposing local enforcement of federal immigration law. <http://www.fpca.com/2005-1RES.htm>
- The American Bar Association OPPOSES state and local enforcement of immigration laws:
<http://www.abanet.org/litigation/documents/clear/CLEARReport.doc>
- Historical Background on Local Enforcement by National Immigration Forum
<http://www.immigrationforum.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=572>
- Personal Stories of People Affected by Local Immigration Enforcement
<http://www.immigrationforum.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=573>

V. Requiring the State Police to enforce federal immigration law would incur significant hidden costs to the Commonwealth.

- The four-week training provided to the State Police is insufficient to adequately train police on complex federal immigration laws.
- Requiring and training the State Police to also act as ICE officers places a greater burden on their enforcement responsibilities and makes mistakes more likely – both wrongful arrests and detention for immigration violations and other actionable conduct in their standard areas of operation.
- The costs associated with authorizing state police to enforce immigration law will increase as a result of liability issues.

See: Report by the National Council of La Raza describing increased civil rights lawsuits arising from local enforcement of immigration law . Waslin, Michelle. “Immigration enforcement by local police: The impact on the civil rights of Latinos.” National Council of La Raza Issue Brief, No. 9. February 2003.

<http://www.nclr.org/content/publications/detail/1390>.