



June 12, 2018

Eric Nakajima joins area activists in pressing for passage of Safe Communities Amendments in Massachusetts State Legislature

Proposed FY19 state budget amendments protect undocumented immigrants, prevent police from acting as extension of ICE

Eric Nakajima wrote letters to Governor Charlie Baker and Speaker Robert DeLeo advocating for the inclusion of Safe Communities Amendments in the final FY2019 budget currently being negotiated by the Massachusetts legislative budget conference committee.

The advocacy letters are part of a campaign by the Massachusetts Safe Communities Coalition statewide and by the Pioneer Valley Workers Center (PVWC) locally to press for adoption of the measures. Advocacy letters, including those from Eric Nakajima, will be presented by the PVWC to legislators on Wednesday, June 13, 2018.

The letter, reads in part:

“The Safe Communities Amendments will improve both the protection of immigrants and public safety in our cities and towns. Adoption of the Safe Communities amendments will reassure residents that our law enforcement officers will not act an extension of U.S. immigration officials in our communities. It will improve public safety by facilitating dialogue and outreach between residents and their local police. The amendments also protect immigrants detained by police by ensuring they understand their rights and have access to legal counsel prior to interactions with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

“In my hometown of Amherst, we have adopted the practices included in the Safe Communities amendments through the leadership of residents, municipal officials and our police department. These measures can effectively be implemented without sacrificing the ability of law enforcement officials to do their job. Our community will be greatly benefited by statewide adoption of these practices and protections, relieving immigrants of worry when traveling for work, healthcare or other reasons.”

“This is a critical time to stand up for our neighbors who fear efforts by the Trump Administration to target immigrants,” said Eric Nakajima, “I am proud to advocate for the passage of the Safe Communities amendments and assist the Pioneer Valley Workers Center in their efforts.”

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