



Opinion

LETTERS: Safe Communities Act needs support

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The color of your skin, your immigrant status, your gender or your religious beliefs should not determine how you are treated in our society.

We are all human, we all bleed red blood and we all have feelings. Treating people with respect and fairness should not be an option, but a law.

The Safe Communities Act (H.3573/S.1401) is a bill that guarantees basic rights to immigrants. It also prevents sheriffs and police from being involved in deportations and deputizing local police officers to act as ICE agents. This bill has been languishing in the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security since January 22, 2019. Hearings on the bill have been postponed three times. If the bill is not voted out of committee by July 15, it will no longer be active.

Legislators opposed to this bill say they do not support it because they do not want criminals walking in the streets. No one wants criminals walking in the streets and that is not what this bill is about. It does not prevent people who have committed crimes from being prosecuted.

On the Cape, the Safe Communities Act has support. Three of our state legislators are co-sponsors of the bill. On the Cape and Islands, 10 towns have passed safe community resolutions, including all six towns on Martha's Vineyard.

All persons should receive fair treatment under the law. If you believe in this, contact your state legislators and members of the committee mentioned above.

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