

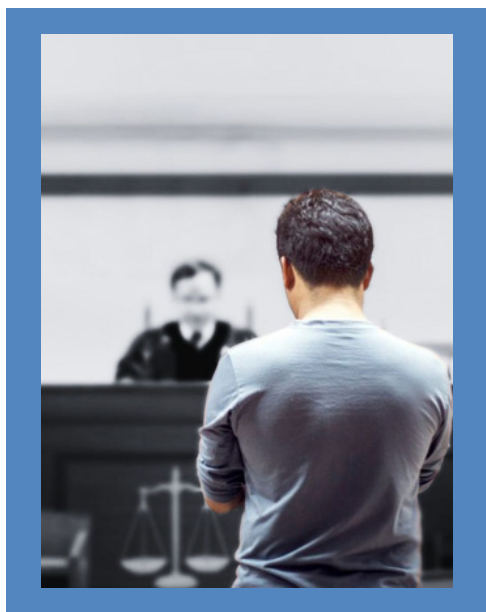
Support the Immigrant Legal Defense Senate Budget Amendment



*Immigrant Legal Defense Amendment
#847 filed by Senator Gomez*

With a federal administration committed to the mass detention and deportation of immigrants, and a new Congress actively stripping away existing rights and privileges, the Commonwealth must urgently intervene to prevent the deportation of immigrants who live, work and pay taxes in Massachusetts.

Please co-sponsor the Immigrant Legal Defense Budget Amendment, Amendment #847, which would create a \$10 million public-funded program to provide no-cost immigration legal defense to immigrants in Massachusetts who are at imminent risk of deportation, especially those held in federal immigration detention.



- In immigration court, having an attorney is critical protection against deportation and permanent family separation. There is no right to a government-paid lawyer in immigration court. Those who cannot afford a lawyer must navigate our complex immigration proceedings alone.
- Immigrants are **5 times** more likely to win relief from deportation if they are represented by counsel. **In Massachusetts, 55% of immigrants with pending cases are navigating their proceedings without a lawyer**
- Detained immigrants with a lawyer are **10 times** more likely to win relief than are detained immigrants without one. **There were 369 people in federal immigration detention in Massachusetts as of January 2025.**
- About **sixty percent of detained immigrants** in Massachusetts had no legal representation whatsoever.

Similar programs exist in California, Colorado, Illinois, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, and Washington.

The Immigrant Legal Defense Budget Amendment would:



Subject to appropriation, **require the Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants (ORI) to grant funds to qualified immigration legal service providers** and the nonprofit organizations and law firms that employ them to provide no-cost legal defense to eligible low-income Massachusetts immigrants facing deportation proceedings.

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