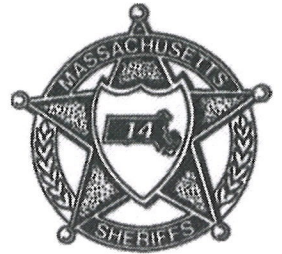




Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association

44 School Street, Suite 300
Boston, Massachusetts 02108



President

Patrick J. Cahillane
Hampshire County

Vice President

Nicholas Cocchi
Hampden County

Executive Director

Carrie Hill, Esq.

Sheriffs

Donna D. Buckley
Barnstable County

Thomas N. Bowler
Berkshire County

Paul R. Heroux
Bristol County

Robert W. Ogden
Dukes County

Kevin F. Coppinger
Essex County

Lori M. Streeter
Franklin County

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Peter J. Koutoujian
Middlesex County

James A. Perelman
Nantucket County

Patrick McDermott
Norfolk County

Joseph D. McDonald, Jr.
Plymouth County

Steven W. Tompkins
Suffolk County

Lewis G. Evangelidis
Worcester County

October 28, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

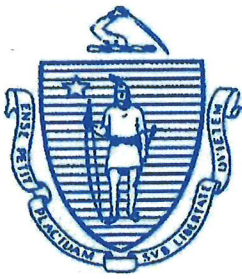
When the undersigned Massachusetts Sheriffs communicated with Governor Healey and Attorney General Campbell on October 22nd regarding what we considered to be an unintended consequence of the PROTECT Act, we never intended for this to become a politically partisan issue.

Working in a bi-partisan fashion, the Sheriffs agreed that our concerns with the PROTECT Act should be treated strictly as a public safety matter, outside the realm of politics.

Our communications with the Governor and the Attorney General regarding the PROTECT Act are ongoing and I have every confidence that good faith efforts are being made to address the public safety concerns the Sheriffs have raised.

Respectfully,

Patrick J. Cahillane
Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association President
Sheriff, Hampshire County



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October 22nd, 2026

The Honorable Maura T. Healey
Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts State House, Room 280
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Andrea Joy Campbell
Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
One Ashburton Place, 20th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

**RE: The PROTECT Act (House No. 5620), Chapter [] of the Acts of 2026
— Advance Release Notice Prohibited: Pretrial Detainees, with a
Detainer, Charged with a Qualifying Violent or Dangerous Offense**

Dear Governor Healey and Attorney General Campbell,

The Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association, through the undersigned Sheriffs, respectfully writes to bring to your attention an unintended public safety consequence of the PROTECT Act, which took effect on August 5, 2026.

During implementation of the PROTECT Act, the Massachusetts Sheriffs have identified an issue concerning notifications upon release. The statute prohibits advance notice to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, except when an individual is released after completing a sentence for a felony that constitutes a violent crime under Chapter 140, Section 121. This exception does not apply to pretrial detainees.

Consequently, Sheriffs may be barred from notifying federal law enforcement authorities when a pretrial detainee subject to an immigration detainer is released, even when that individual is facing serious violent, dangerous, or drug related charges. The Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association raised this concern in testimony before the PROTECT Act's passage, noting the potential public safety risk of prohibiting notification for detained individuals with detainers who are charged with violent offenses.

Data sampled from Sheriffs' Offices across the Commonwealth indicates that this is not merely a hypothetical concern. As reflected in the examples outlined below,

there are currently pretrial detainees in the Sheriffs' custody who are subject to immigration detainers, are charged with qualifying violent or dangerous offenses, and have bail set below \$1,000. These individuals may be released without advance notification to relevant federal law-enforcement partners, potentially, posing a threat to our communities.

The following examples further illustrate the concern:

- Four of the Sheriffs' Offices who reported holding pretrial detainees, 100% had violent charges, including murder, rape, kidnapping, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, and class A drug trafficking
- 14 individuals had bail set at \$1,000 or under
- For charges including kidnapping and assault and battery on a household member, bail was only set at \$500-\$1,000
- One pretrial detainee in Worcester County is wanted by Interpol for murder in the Dominican Republic, but bail is set at \$500

If federal authorities do not receive notice while an individual remains in custody, they may instead seek to locate that person in the community. This can create avoidable risks for the public, law-enforcement personnel, families, and others who may be present during those encounters.

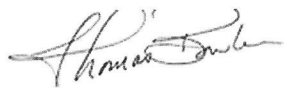
We respectfully request that the Administration review this issue and consider a legislative, regulatory, or administrative solution that permits limited, public safety-based notification when a pretrial detainee is subject to a detainer and is charged with a qualifying violent or dangerous offense.

The undersigned Sheriffs remain committed to complying with the law while protecting the safety of the communities we serve. We respectfully request prompt attention to this matter and stand ready to provide any additional data or information that may be helpful.

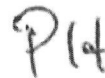
If you need any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact MSA Executive Director Carrie Hill at 612-306-4831.

Respectfully,

The Undersigned Massachusetts Sheriffs



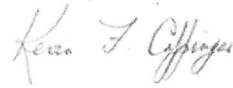
Sheriff Thomas N. Bowler
Berkshire County



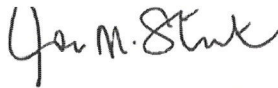
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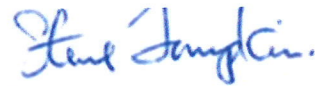
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Plymouth County



Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins
Suffolk County



Sheriff Lewis G. Evangelidis
Worcester County

cc: Gina Kwon, Secretary of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Kate Cook, Chief of Staff to Governor Maura Healey
Kim Parr, Deputy Legal Counsel to Governor Maura Healey
Anne Landry, Chief of Policy & Government Affairs Division, Office of the Attorney General
Carrie Hill, Executive Director, Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association