



# AN ARM AND A LEGACY

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What is the price of creating a legacy? For many undocumented immigrants, such as the ones represented by the protesters in the first image, the creation of a legacy comes with the sacrifices of uprooting an established life and departing from home. The risks are numerous and the prospect of a better life in the U.S. includes new challenges such as discrimination and lack of protection. These protestors stand in front of the iconic Massachusetts State House, a symbol of American freedom, and ask for protection, dignity, respect, and their freedom as they seek to navigate the experience of living in the United States. Seeing the protesters on the tour reminded me of my own parents and their journey of forming a new legacy in the U.S. The second image is a medallion my grandparents gave to me on the day of my baptism. The necklace depicts the Virgin of Guadalupe, a central figure in the religious traditions of Mexico and other Latin American countries. My mother gave me this sacramental before I left for Boston as a reminder of the legacy of the strong Catholic tradition in her family and for protection in a new environment. The gold dome of the Massachusetts State house gleams with the prospect of a better future for immigrants and the gold of the pendant serves as an emblem of my own wish to uphold the legacy of my family as a first generation college student. The sacrifices that come along with the formation of a new legacy cost an arm and a leg. My parents left behind the comfort of their community in Mexico when they decided to come to the U.S. and plant new roots and start a family. This is the reality for many immigrants, leaving behind loved ones and the comfort that comes from a sense of belonging in the only place they know to come to the U.S. in search of better work and living conditions. For my family and the protestors, the construction of a safer future for their posterity is worth the high cost that comes with the creation of a new legacy.