



LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR
CIVIL RIGHTS
U N D E R L A W

A nonprofit, nonpartisan legal organization formed at the request of President Kennedy in 1963



April 23, 2010

The Honorable Jan Brewer
Governor of Arizona
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: **Opposition to SB 1070**

Dear Governor Brewer:

The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law fervently opposes SB 1070 passed by the Arizona legislature on April 19th. We urge you not to sign this harmful and regressive legislation, a misguided and overbroad attempt at curbing illegal immigration through the use of outright racial profiling. The Lawyers' Committee was founded in 1963 to obtain equal opportunity for minorities by addressing factors that contribute to racial justice and economic opportunity. This law subverts this mission by supporting racial injustice and economic inopportunity for many Latinos in Arizona merely "suspected" of being illegal. In essence, the law unconstitutionally codifies discrimination under the guise of public safety.

We encourage you to not sign this legislation, which legitimizes racial profiling, a method of enforcement that consistently scars many communities of color. The law intends to "secure our borders" and curb illegal immigration, but fails, as it gives enforcement authorities overbroad power without the proper training to effectively meet the goals the legislation proposes to support. This type of authority will only serve to legitimize the abuse of power we have seen strike so many communities of color. SB 1070 could unfairly target Latinos legitimately working and residing in the state and subject businesses to potential raids and frivolous lawsuits further thwarting hope for economic recovery. Ultimately, resources which are better served addressing violent crimes are misplaced based solely on a police officer's "suspicion" and/or racial bias.

The Lawyers' Committee has, over decades, seen many of its clients and friends victimized by race baiting and "reasonable suspicion" charges. We note that any bill justifying this process is not only misguided but unconstitutional. As Governor of the State of Arizona with authority to protect the rights of all citizens and residents, you should not sign this short-sighted piece of legislation, but work with Congress and the Obama Administration in tackling comprehensive immigration reform. Arizona should be at the forefront of the immigration debate and you can lead by not signing SB 1070.

Sincerely,

Barbara R. Arnwine
Executive Director