

April 19, 2010



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

Re: **Opposition to SB 1070**

Dear Governor Brewer,

On behalf of the Anti-Defamation League, I write to express our strong opposition to SB 1070 and **urge you to veto** this misguided and wrong-headed piece of legislation. Founded in 1913, with a mandate to fight the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment for all, ADL is one of the country's leading civil rights organizations. As part of our long tradition of fighting bias, prejudice, bigotry and hate, we advocate for fair and humane immigration policies. SB 1070 flies in the face of that mission.

This legislation holds out a false promise to improve the safety and security to the State of Arizona. In actuality, SB 1070 will drive a wedge between local law enforcement and the communities they are sworn to serve and to protect while simultaneously doing little to reduce illegal immigration. Jurisdiction for enforcement of the nation's complex immigration laws has always rested with federal authorities, and we strongly believe that the responsibility for policing our borders and implementing immigration laws should remain in their hands. Mandating that local authorities participate in these efforts – as SB 1070 does – undermines public trust and obstructs effective community policing by building a wall between local agencies and the immigrant communities. Members of the state's significant Latino and immigrant populations – citizens and non-citizens alike – who were once willing to report crimes or act as witnesses will now be reticent to come forward. By jeopardizing the sense of partnership between local police and the community, SB 1070 undermines the goal of improving security throughout Arizona.

Implementation of SB 1070 could open the floodgate for a rash of arrests based solely on factors like skin color or accent. Requiring that police officers question anyone who gives them "reasonable suspicion" that they are in the country illegally opens up a Pandora's box for profiling. Even worse, police officers will feel pressure to make these types of arrests in light of the fact that SB 1070 empowers anyone to sue a state agency or county, city or town official because she believes the officer is not fully complying with the state's immigration laws. Further, these short-sighted changes to the law will only serve to distract law enforcement from their vital work of tracking and arresting violent criminals.

ADL and its civil rights partners across the country remain convinced that the best way to reduce illegal immigration is to enact comprehensive immigration reform that balances fairness, compassion and security. SB 1070 does none of this. Rather, it is divisive, counter-productive and engenders tremendous fear. As Arizona's top leader, we are depending on you to send a message not only to Arizonians but to all Americans that we can – and will – do better.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Straus". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bill Straus