



Maricopa County

Board of Supervisors

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Honorable Jan Brewer
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Brewer,

I write on behalf of numerous faith, business, community, and civil rights organizations to request a meeting on Tuesday, April 20 at 11:30 am to discuss SB 1070. I was asked to send this formal meeting request by organizations representing Latinos and Latinas in all corners of this state, and indeed in all states in the nation. We are respectfully asking for an opportunity to have our voices heard as you consider whether or not to sign this legislation.

In recent days, SB 1070 has captured the attention of the nation and earned the condemnation of a constellation of voices, including the New York Times editorial board. On Tuesday, we would welcome the opportunity to bring *our* voices to the table.

Several organizations representing Arizona constituents have compiled tens of thousands of signatures on petitions from voters urging that you veto this hateful legislation. While the bill purports to be an immigration law, we believe the bill constitutes an attack on all Latinos and Latinas in the state. Far from advancing law enforcement or immigration reform priorities, it will undermine Arizona's safety, damage our economy, and jeopardize all of our civil rights.

We recognize that emotions are running high on all sides of the immigration debate. Accordingly, we wish to have a meeting with a small delegation of leadership to voice concerns of the larger community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Rose Wilcox".

Mary Rose Wilcox
Supervisor, District 5

SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2010

Sunday Opinion

The New York Times

ARTHUR OCHS SULZBERGER JR., *Publisher*

Founded in 1851

ADOLPH S. OCHS
Publisher 1896-1935

ARTHUR HAYS SULZBERGER
Publisher 1935-1961

ORVIL E. DRYFOOS
Publisher 1961-1963

ARTHUR OCHS SULZBERGER
Publisher 1963-1992

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TERRY L. HAYES, *Senior V.P., Operations and Labor*
MICHAEL VALENTINE, *V.P., Human Resources*

MARTIN GOTTLIEB, *Editor, Global Editions*

Arizona Goes Over the Edge

The Arizona Legislature has just stepped off the deep end of the immigration debate, passing a harsh and mean-spirited bill that would do little to stop illegal immigration. What it would do is lead to more racial profiling, hobble local law enforcement, and open government agencies to frivolous, politically driven lawsuits.

The bill is a grab bag of measures to enlist law enforcement and government at every level to expose and expel the undocumented. Opponents say it verges on a police state, which sounds overblown until you read it.

It would make not having immigration documents a new state misdemeanor, and allow officers to arrest anyone who could not immediately prove they were here legally. That means if you are brown-skinned and leave home without a wallet, you are in trouble.

Police agencies that believe overly tough enforcement tactics are undercutting their ability to fight crime would have to crack down anyway. The bill would require police officers who have "reasonable suspicion" about someone's immigration status to demand to see documents. And it would empower anyone to sue any state agency or official or any county, city or town that he or she believes is not fully enforcing immigration law.

The bill, passed by Arizona's Republican-controlled House on a party-line vote, has already passed the state Senate and will soon be before Gov. Jan Brewer, a Republican. She has not said whether she will sign it.

Immigrant advocates and civil-rights lawyers are appalled, and so are police chiefs and sheriffs who say the bill is an assault on public safety, since it would force newly criminalized immigrants to fear and shun the police. It would divert law enforcement resources away from chasing violent offenders, and toward an all-out assault on the mostly harmless undocumented, with the innocent as collateral damage.

It is now up to Governor Brewer to do what is best for her state: she should refuse to sign. If this dangerous experiment becomes law, Washington can still end it by refusing to cooperate, cutting off access to immigration records. Either way, it should cancel programs that enlist state and local law enforcement in the indiscriminate hunt for the undocumented.

The Arizona bill is another reminder why the administration needs to push for real immigration reform. The failure to address it nationally has left the field wide open for this outrage, and we fear more to come.