

Resolution Condemning Arizona Senate Bill 1070

May 20, 2010

WHEREAS:

Arizona's controversial new anti-immigration law (SB 1070) is not only an affront to American values of fairness and respect for our constitution, but also an impractical, unenforceable and wasteful approach to fixing our nation's broken immigration system.

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Arizona Senate Bill 1070 codifies racial profiling into law by requiring police officers to stop anyone they have "reasonable suspicion" to believe is not authorized to be in the United States, without providing guidelines that define what police can use in determining "reasonable suspicion." In doing so the law puts Arizona's entire Latino population—the great majority of whom are U.S. citizens or legal residents—at risk of arrest.

WHEREAS:

Singling people out based only on stereotyping isn't just wrong, it's also impractical and wasteful policing. Under this law local police officers must now perform the job of federal immigration officials under the ever-present threat of being sued because the law subjects local governments and their employees to potential lawsuits by any citizen who believes the new law is not being enforced strongly enough. This will cost the state of Arizona million of dollars at a time when we just cannot afford to be wasting precious resources or expanding the mandate of already overburdened local police forces.

WHEREAS:

As a labor movement, we are particularly concerned about the effects this law will have on workers' rights. Any employer faced with Latino workers' complaints—from a picket line to a lawsuit—can now simply call the police and have the workers arrested under the guise of "reasonable suspicion." The law's effects on new organizing and labor standards will be devastating.

WHEREAS:

The people of Arizona and across the country are rightfully frustrated by the lack of federal action on the issue of immigration reform. For years, politicians in Washington have used immigration to play politics rather than to fix what they know is a broken system, and Arizona SB 1070 is merely a local continuation of this trend.

WHEREAS:

The solution for Arizona and the entire country is to solve the immigration problem through a comprehensive solution on the federal level that reflects our nation's values and works for everyone, not through a state-by-state piecemeal approach.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Coalition of Labor Union Women condemns SB 1070 as a racist, impractical, unenforceable, and wasteful law which will not fix Arizona's immigration problem.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Coalition of Labor Union Women calls on the Secretary of Homeland Security and the US Attorney General to take all necessary steps to prevent racial profiling, including blocking the implementation of SB1070.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Coalition of Labor Union Women calls on President Obama and Congress to work together to pass a fair, comprehensive immigration reform bill that will fix our immigration system once and for all in a way consistent with our nation's most precious values.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:

That the Coalition of Labor Union Women will continue to work with allies to promote comprehensive immigration reform based on the principles outlined in the labor movement's unity framework, which contains five major interconnected pieces:

1. An independent commission to assess and manage future flows, based on labor market shortages that are determined on the basis of actual need;
2. A secure and effective worker authorization mechanism;
3. Rational operation control of the border and appropriate visa enforcement;
4. Fair adjustment of status for the current undocumented population; and
5. Improvement, not expansion, of temporary worker programs like the H1-B and H2-B programs, limited to temporary or seasonal, not permanent, jobs.