

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS (SSSP) URGING THE RESCISSION OF ARIZONA SENATE BILL 1070, "SUPPORT OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS ACT."

WHEREAS, the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), a social justice organization of scholars, educators, students, and practitioners, devoted to the study of social problems and the formulation of relevant social policies, is committed to the eradication of racial profiling and other forms of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, and national origin; and

WHEREAS, on April 23, 2010, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer signed Senate Bill 1070 (Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act), requiring all local law enforcement officers to determine a person's immigration status when there is a "*reasonable suspicion*" that the person is in the Country unlawfully, regardless of whether that person is suspected of a crime; and

WHEREAS, SB 1070 permits the arrest of a person, without a warrant, if there is probable cause to believe that the person has committed a public offense that would not normally lead to arrest such as a traffic violation or violation of a city ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the *de facto* reality of the implementation of SB 1070 will be the racial profiling of the Latina/o population, especially in light of the popular stereotype that all "illegals" are Mexican, despite the fact that a significant number of undocumented immigrants even in Arizona are not Latina/o, and that a racial profile does not exist for undocumented immigrants who are "white" (e.g. Irish, Greek, Canadian); and

WHEREAS, the demonization of immigrants by politicians and mass-media personalities emboldens white supremacist, anti-immigrant hate groups, militias, and armed vigilante organizations who now feel vindicated by SB 1070 to imperil the rights and even the lives of anyone who "looks illegal;" and

WHEREAS, the stated intent of SB 1070 is to drive undocumented immigrants and their families, among them children and other relatives born in the United States, out of the state, as evidenced by the fact that legislative proponents of this law have described it as a part of a strategy to make life so unbearable for undocumented residents and their families that they will leave the state, in violation of international law that considers attempts to drive an ethnic population out of its place of residence a crime against humanity; and

WHEREAS, SB 1070, even if it fails to cleanse Arizona of the targeted population, will create a climate of fear so intense that it will force immigrant workers farther underground and make them even more vulnerable to exploitation by unscrupulous

employers, thereby *increasing* the demand for their labor, the principal reason for their presence in the state to begin with; and

WHEREAS, many constitutional scholars and legal experts have concluded that SB 1070 violates the Supremacy Clause of Article VI of the Constitution of the United States and the 14th Amendment guarantees of due process and equal protection for U.S. citizens, legal residents and visitors who are detained for suspicion of being in the Country unlawfully; and

WHEREAS, SB 1070 seriously undermines the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress exclusive power over immigration legislation; and

WHEREAS, by requiring police officers to enforce federal immigration law, SB 1070 undermines the trust between police officers and communities essential for effective law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the enforcement of SB 1070 will result in the unwarranted and prolonged detention of citizens and legal residents; and

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that until the SB 1070 is rescinded or determined to be unconstitutional by the courts, the SSSP will refrain from scheduling future annual meetings and other SSSP events in Arizona, and will urge its members, and their families and friends, and other organizations with which its members or the SSSP are affiliated, to avoid to the fullest extent possible visiting the state of Arizona or doing business with businesses based in Arizona; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SSSP joins many other humanitarian, social justice, and anti-racism organizations and individuals in opposition to SB 1070, and urges the State of Arizona to repeal SB 1070, the "Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act," and directs the Administrative Office of the SSSP to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of Arizona, the Honorable Jan Brewer, and to other public officials, organizations, and media that the Board and Administrative Office deem appropriate.