

# NATIONAL CAUCUS OF NATIVE AMERICAN STATE LEGISLATORS

## RESOLUTION REGARDING ARIZONA SENATE BILL 1070

The National Caucus of Native American State Legislators (NCNASL) is made up of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian State Legislators from 18 states and is organized to provide a forum for discussion, education and increased communication. Additionally, the NCNASL identifies and proposes legislation and administrative actions to eliminate barriers to achievement of a better quality of life for Native people.

**WHEREAS** the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators was formed in 1992 and formally established in its current form in 2005, with the goals of increasing awareness of the diverse Native American cultures in the United States, encouraging open dialogues, understanding, and cooperation between state and tribal governments, and

**WHEREAS** the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators has long sought to promote cultural understanding between American Indian/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian peoples and all other cultural traditions through recognition of the many contributions of minority cultures, and

**WHEREAS** the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators seeks to promote fairness and nondiscrimination for all people residing in America, and

**WHEREAS** the Arizona Legislature has passed and Gov. Janice K. Brewer has signed into law SB1070, which seeks to ferret out illegal immigrants in a manner that ignores the U. S. Constitution's "supremacy clause", infringes on free speech, encourages racial profiling and tramples the civil rights of all residents and visitors, and

**WHEREAS** SB 1070 is likely to target people of brown skin and those who have Spanish surnames, and

**WHEREAS** tribal elders did not carry identifications cards and SB 1070 will require them to carry proper identification documents with them, and

**WHEREAS** SB 1070 gives an unfunded mandate to have the tribes mandate identification cards, and

**WHEREAS** United States President Barak Obama states that this legislation "undermines basic notions of fairness that we cherish as Americans, as well as the trust between police and their communities that is so crucial to keeping us safe," and

**WHEREAS** the Declaration of Independence itself declares that “all men are created equal,” and

**WHEREAS** the uniform application of this policy will serve to promote divisiveness and resentment toward a race or class of people, and

**WHEREAS** such a promotion of such divisiveness runs contrary to the American spirit of equality and justice for all, and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NATIONAL CAUCUS OF NATIVE AMERICAN STATE LEGISLATORS** that the inherent sovereignty of Tribes as recognized through historical treaties and legal relationships that exist between Tribal Nations and the United States of America is undeniable; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators stands opposed to SB1070 for these and other reasons, and will vigorously oppose the efforts of other states to adopt the same or similar policies, on the grounds that such policies infringe on federal authority and represent a threat to the civil rights of all people.

**Sponsored by:** Sen. Albert Hale (AZ)

**Approved date is:** June 25, 2010

**Committee of Jurisdiction:**

**Certified by Committee Chair:**

**Certified by Caucus Chair:** Rep. John McCoy (WA)

**Ratified certified by:** The NCNASL, June 25, 2010

**Distribution List:** President  
Members of Congress  
National Congress of American Indians