



National
Caucus of
Native
American
State
Legislators

c/o National Conference
of State Legislatures

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NATIONAL CAUCUS OF NATIVE AMERICAN STATE LEGISLATORS

RESOLUTION URGING THE REPEAL OF THE ARIZONA OFFICIAL STATE FIREARM LAW

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 Arizona Legislature passed and Governor Janice K. Brewer signed into law S.B. 1610, legislation which establishes the Colt Single Action Army revolver as the official firearm of the State of Arizona; and

WHEREAS this weapon was used to kill off thousands of Native Americans, to take their land and everything that Native Americans owned, and to force them onto reservations; and

WHEREAS legislation glorifying a weapon used to destroy people, communities and cultures is offensive and does not respect that Arizona history began before the first non-Indians arrived in the area; and

WHEREAS the legislation was insensitive not only to Native Americans but also to the families and friends of those killed and injured in the Tucson tragedy only months earlier; and

WHEREAS S.B. 1610 marks another dark day in the history of Arizona politics, is divisive and is a misuse of the state's good name; and

WHEREAS the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators stands opposed to and is offended by S.B. 1610, and will vigorously oppose efforts of other states that move to adopt the same or similar legislation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators hereby urges the Arizona State Legislature to repeal S.B. 1610, the Arizona Official State Firearm Law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators further authorizes and directs the Chair of the National Caucus to do any and all things necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution including transmission of the same to the President of the United States and members of the United States Congress.

Sponsored by: Representative Albert Hale (AZ), Senator Jack Jackson, Jr. (AZ)

Approved date is: August 3, 2011

Certified by Caucus Chair: Representative John McCoy (WA)

Ratified certified by: The NCNASL, August 3, 2011

Distribution List: The President
Members of Congress
Other federal and state government officials as appropriate