

*The following message was sent to the Immigration Legislative Assistants in Congress on July 19:*

NAFSA: Association of International Educators, the world's largest professional association dedicated to international education, recently adopted a resolution at our annual conference that calls for "the immediate repeal of anti-immigrant legislation by the State of Arizona" and urges Congress to act now to pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation.

This NAFSA resolution is in direct response to SB1070, legislation passed in the Arizona state legislature and signed into law on April 23. As you know, this legislation would make the failure to carry immigration documents a state crime, require police officers to detain individuals they suspect are not authorized to be in the United States, and allow persons who believe federal or state immigration law is not being enforced to sue local government agencies. The NAFSA resolution calls for the immediate repeal of SB1070 and resolves the association to not hold national and regional meetings in the state of Arizona until the situation is rectified. The full text of the resolution can be found [here](#).

NAFSA is concerned about the detrimental impact this legislation may have on international education and exchange in the United States. Indeed, exchange programs between Arizona and some universities in Mexico have already been canceled due to fear of Mexican students being targeted unfairly as a result of this legislation. It is already evident that anti-immigrant legislation could seriously damage our nation's ability to continue to promote cross-cultural understanding and attract the best and brightest from around the world to its institutions of higher learning.

In the ongoing absence of action by the federal government, states and local jurisdictions across the country feel pressure to enact immigration laws and many are turning to Arizona for a model. This is untenable and cannot persist. To ensure that this does not become a reality, it is imperative that Congress act now to pass comprehensive immigration reform to create a fair system that that address border security, provides path to legalization for the millions of people in the country illegally, gives hope to undocumented students through the DREAM Act, and encourages the best and the brightest students, scholars, exchange visitors, and other talented people to study and work here to contribute to our economy and country.

Congress must move forward with fair, effective immigration reform that will lift up Americans to [compete in the global economy](#), reflect our fundamental values as a nation of immigrants, and make the United States welcoming and accessible to the world's best talent and future leaders. If we do not act soon to repair the broken immigration system in this country, patchwork, anti-immigrant laws threaten to tarnish U.S. public diplomacy efforts and jeopardize the future of international education and exchange.