

**NAFSA: Association of  
International Educators**

1307 New York Avenue NW  
Eighth Floor  
Washington, DC 20005-4701  
Telephone: 1.202.737.3699  
Fax: 1.202.737.3657  
E-mail: [inbox@nafsa.org](mailto:inbox@nafsa.org)  
<http://www.nafsa.org>

*President and  
Chair of the Board of Directors*  
Christopher J. Viers  
Indiana University

*Vice President for Education  
and Professional Development*  
Mary H. Reeves  
Commission on English  
Language Program Accreditation

*Vice President for  
Member Relations*  
Susan M. Thompson  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

*Vice President for  
Public Policy and Practice*  
DeDe Long  
University of Arkansas

*Treasurer*  
John K. Hudzik  
Michigan State University

*Secretary*  
Bonnie Bissonette  
Northcentral Technical College

*Executive Director and CEO*  
Marlene M. Johnson

July 15, 2010

The Honorable Jan Brewer  
Office of the Governor  
1700 West Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Brewer,

I write to you today on behalf of NAFSA: Association for International Educators, the world's largest professional association dedicated to international education and exchange, to express serious concerns with the impending implementation of anti-immigrant legislation in Arizona and to share a copy of a resolution adopted by this association during its annual conference that calls for "the immediate repeal of anti-immigrant legislation by the State of Arizona."

We are very concerned about the detrimental impact this legislation may have on international education and exchange in the United States. NAFSA strongly believes that by connecting citizens across borders and promoting cross-cultural understanding, conditions can be created to sustain lasting global peace and security. Attracting talented students and scholars from all over the world strengthens our country, allowing us to remain an innovative leader in an increasingly competitive global marketplace. In light of the current economic downturn, it is important to note that international students and their dependents contributed nearly \$18 billion dollars to the U.S. economy in the academic year 2008-2009. In that same year, Arizona hosted nearly 11,000 international students, who contributed more than \$228 million to the state's economy. We are concerned that the implementation of this anti-immigrant legislation as passed could seriously damage Arizona's ability to continue to promote cross-cultural understanding and attract the best and brightest from around the world to its finest institutions of higher learning.

The resolution calls for the immediate repeal of SB1070, asks the U.S. Congress to act quickly to enact comprehensive immigration reform, and resolves the association to not hold national and regional meetings in the State of Arizona until the situation is rectified.

I urge you to repeal this anti-immigrant legislation in order to prevent international education and exchange from being jeopardized in Arizona and elsewhere. Comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level is the surest way to ensure the future security and vitality of our great nation.

Sincerely,

Marlene M. Johnson  
Executive Director & CEO

Enclosure