

NAFSA: Association of  
International Educators

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Dear Governor,

I write today on behalf of NAFSA: Association for International Educators, the world's largest association of international educators, to share with you the text of a resolution adopted at our annual conference that calls for "the immediate repeal of anti-immigrant legislation by the State of Arizona" and urges other states to refrain from enacting similar measures.

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

This resolution is in 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.

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

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 scholars from all over the world strengthens our country, and allows us to continue to be an innovative leader in an increasingly competitive global marketplace. Additionally, in light of current economic challenges, it is important to note that international students and their dependents contributed nearly \$18 billion to the U.S. economy in the 2008-2009 academic year. However, anti-immigrant legislation could seriously damage a state'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.

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

These concerns, coupled with NAFSA's commitment to the principles of judicial fairness and due process enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, are the impetus for the passage of this resolution. The resolution calls for the immediate repeal of SB1070, urges other states to refrain from passing similar measures, 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.

*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

I trust I can rely on your support in ensuring that similar legislation is not passed in your state, as doing so would tarnish U.S. public diplomacy efforts and jeopardize the future of international education and exchange.

Sincerely,

Marlene M. Johnson  
Executive Director & CEO

Enclosure