

COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO

16th Legislative
Assembly

4th Ordinary
Session

SENATE OF PUERTO RICO

S. R. 1680

October 20, 2010

Introduced by *Mr. Hernández-Mayoral*

Referred to the Committee on

RESOLUTION

To urge the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) not to hold its Fall Forum in Phoenix, Arizona on December 8-10, 2010 in order to send a message of repudiation of SB 1070, and to support the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL) in our strong opposition to Arizona Law SB 1070.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

The Legislature of Arizona passed and the Governor of Arizona signed into law Arizona Senate Bill 1070, which requires law enforcement personnel to question people about their immigration status and arrest individuals if law enforcement personnel have a "reasonable suspicion" that they are in the country illegally. Furthermore, the Arizona law requires immigrants to carry proof of their immigration status and targets the hiring of undocumented immigrants as day laborers by prohibiting people from stopping a vehicle on a road to offer employment and by prohibiting a person from getting into a stopped vehicle on a street to be hired for work if it impedes traffic.

President Obama has expressed concern over Arizona's law by characterizing it as "misguided;" and many governors and mayors from cities across the nation, officials at state and federal levels, leaders of national organizations, and individual citizens have expressed outrage at the Arizona law and concern for the civil rights violations to which it will lead.

On July 6, 2010, the U.S. Department of Justice sued Arizona over its immigration law, charging that the Arizona law cracking down on illegal immigrants conflicts with federal law, would disrupt immigration enforcement and would lead to police harassment of those who cannot prove their lawful status. U.S. District Judge Susan Bolton on July 28 granted the department's request for a preliminary injunction blocking some of the most egregious provisions of the law taking effect.

Officials in several cities across the country and leaders of national organizations have proposed immediate economic sanctions against Arizona in response to SB 1070. The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) is slated to hold its Fall Forum in Phoenix, Arizona on December 8-10, 2010.

The Senate of Puerto Rico is a member of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL). The NHCSL has stated its opposition to the Arizona law as an "ill conceived law that sets a dangerous precedent for civil liberties". On April 28, 2010 the NHCSL cancelled a joint conference with the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) that was going to be held in Scottsdale, Arizona in response to the harmful implications of SB 1070.

As Hispanics and as elected officials concerned with the protection of civil rights, we urge the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) not to hold its Fall Forum in Phoenix, Arizona on December 8-10, 2010 in order to send a clear message of repudiation of SB 1070, and we support the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL) in our opposition to Arizona Law SB 1070.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF PUERTO RICO:

1 Section 1.- To urge the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) not to hold
2 its Fall Forum in Phoenix, Arizona on December 8-10, 2010 in order to send a message of
3 repudiation of SB 1070, and to support the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators
4 (NHCSL) in our strong opposition to Arizona Law SB 1070.

1 Section 2.- Denounce any policy, such as the anti-immigrant law enacted in the state
2 of Arizona, which encourages racial profiling and places citizens, as well as immigrants –
3 both lawful and undocumented- at risk.

4 Section 3.- A copy of this Resolution, will be transmitted to Senator Richard T.
5 Moore, President of NCSL, Senator Iris Y. Martínez, President of NHCSL, Cecilia Muñoz,
6 White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Attorney General Eric Holder, all
7 members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and to the Puerto Rico and United States
8 media for their information and disclosure.

9 Section 4.- This Resolution shall take effect upon approval.