

THE UNITED STATES STUDENT ASSOCIATION  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
*MAY 21<sup>st</sup> 2010*

*A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE ARIZONA SB 1070, HB 2281, & HB 2382/SB 1097*

**Introduced by:**

**Teresa Mabry, Women of Color caucus Chair, Getachew Kassa, People of African Descent caucus Chair, Tommy Le, Grassroots Legislative Liaison, Emilio Lacques, National People of Color Student Coalition Chair, Kortney McBride, Community and Labor Liaison, Christian Vasquez, State & System Student Association Coalition Chair**

**WHEREAS**, The United States Student Association represents the voice of students on the federal level to Congress, the White House and the Department of Education;

**WHEREAS**, The United States Student Association Board of Directors is comprised of students from various communities including those from traditionally marginalized and underrepresented communities;

**WHEREAS**, United States Student Association members value a vision for a just society and the ability to cause social change;

**WHEREAS**, The United States Student Association Board of Directors is charged with supporting the values of USSA and which are in the best interest of the students it represents;

**WHEREAS**, the United States Student Association has maintained it's vision and values through its endorsement of the DREAM Act and CIR ASAP;

**WHEREAS**, Gov. of Arizona Jan Brewer signed into law SB 1070, which would make the failure to carry immigration documents a crime and give the police broad power to detain anyone suspected of being in the country illegal without clearly prohibiting racial profiling;

**WHEREAS**, SB 1070 legalizes the act of racial profiling by allowing police authorities to stop and question the legal status of anyone they deem to be a "suspicious" individual;

**WHEREAS**, SB 1070 violates an individuals right to due process by allowing police authorities to immediately jail an individual failing to present the correct documentation;

**WHEREAS**, SB 1070 is an unfunded mandate, which may lead to further cuts to higher education or other existing public services by adding additional financial burden on counties and local law enforcement;

**WHEREAS**, Legislation similar to SB 1070 is being drafted and introduced in other states around the country, making this a national issue;

**WHEREAS**, Arizona HB 2382/SB 1097 requires public school system teachers to report students with undocumented status to Arizona's Department of Education;

**WHEREAS**, The Universities in Arizona have a diverse population of students, faculty, and staff, and each of these laws threatens that diversity;

**WHEREAS**, President Shelton of the University of Arizona states the impact of SB1070 on out-of-state and international students: "The families of a number of out-of-state students (to date all of them honors students) have told us that they are changing their plans and will be sending their children to universities in other states";

**WHEREAS**, Arizona HB 2281 would ban ethnic studies curriculum from K-12 public education, claiming ethnic studies to, "Promote the overthrow of the United States government" and Promote resentment toward a race or class of people";

**WHEREAS**, HB 2281 restricts a student's right to a valid education, limiting our opportunities to learn about our histories and furthers institutionalized oppression;

**WHEREAS**, Arizona HB 2382/SB 1097 will result in families that have both citizen and undocumented children will struggle with a dilemma as they weigh the benefits of enrolling a child in school against the potential threat of being discovered and deported;

**WHEREAS**, Institutionalized discrimination refers to the unfair, indirect treatment of an individual embedded in the operating procedures, policies, laws, or objectives of large organizations such as the governments, public institutions (schools, police forces) and other larger entities. Usually the bias targets specific, facile attributes including race, gender, nationality, sexual orientation, and age;

**WHEREAS**, Institutionalized discrimination can lead to uneven distribution of advantages, material rewards, opportunities, education, and power among groups;

**WHEREAS**, SB 1070, HB2281 and SB1097 Crafted under the auspices of the "immigration issue" and educational bias Arizona's recent policies are widely viewed as institutionalized discrimination;

**BE IT RESOLVED:** The United States Student Association Board of Directors views recent action taken by Arizona as precedent for future policies that will further undermine our collective communities;

**BE IT RESOLVED:** The United States Student Association believes the policies taken by Arizona must be addressed with a comprehensive solution on the national level;

**BE IT RESOLVED:** The United States Student Association will participate in the "Day of Action" and encourage USSA members to stand in solidarity with the students from Arizona on May 29<sup>th</sup> 2010;

**BE IT RESOLVED:** The United States Board of Directors request that USSA issue a statement against the legislation passed in Arizona as it relates to the work of its organization;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** The United States Student Association unequivocally opposes Arizona's SB 1070, HB 2281, SB 1097 and future policies that undermine any community under the auspices of the immigration issue or educational bias.