

April 30, 2010

The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas join with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and people of faith across the country in opposing SB 1070, the *Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act*, which was signed into law in Arizona on Friday, April 23, 2010.

As Sisters of Mercy we are committed to stand in solidarity with immigrants seeking fullness of life. For 167 years, we have served and continue to serve immigrant communities, and to advocate on behalf of immigrants held in detention.

By allowing law enforcement personnel to check the immigration status of persons just because they have reasonable suspicion of that they are undocumented, SB 1070 opens the way to expanded racial profiling, arrests, detention and deportation. Families will be separated and children will find themselves without parents.

Immigration is a complex issue which has its roots in economic policies that force people to leave their home countries in search of employment to support their families. Criminalizing infractions of immigration law does not address the root causes of human migration and leads instead to serious human rights violations.

The passage of SB 1070 in Arizona points to the need for Comprehensive Immigration Reform legislation on the federal level. A just and humane immigration bill would provide a path to citizenship, unite families and respect the dignity and rights of immigrant workers.

Our immigration system is broken. We urge President Obama and Congress to pass a Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill this year.