

PETITION TO THE NORTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL TO BOYCOTT ARIZONA UNTIL SB1070 REPEALED

Whereas, the state of Arizona has enacted into law (SB1070) a requirement that all state, county, and municipal police officers ascertain the citizenship status of any person about whom they have reasonable cause to believe is an illegal alien and arrest and detain those without proper identification; and

Whereas, that law will have the practical effect of requiring that every resident of and visitor to the state of Arizona, including children, tourists, and Native Americans, carry a birth certificate, visa, or other such form of identification; and

Whereas this law will foster racial profiling and harassment, violates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and likely violates the due process and equal protection amendment of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution; therefore

We ask that the Northampton City Council vote to:

- a. Denounce Arizona's SB1070 and ensure that from this day forward until the law has been repealed or set aside by court action that no Northampton funds shall be expended for any goods or services originating in the State of Arizona, aid prohibition to include travel to or from the State of Arizona on any official business or travel for official town business upon any transportation carrier headquartered in the State of Arizona; and,
- b. Urge Northampton residents to consider joining the City in the above boycott and consider whatever business, professional, academic, fraternal, religious and other organization to which they may belong to take actions described in the above section, including the cancellation of any organizational meetings, conferences, gatherings or events scheduled to take place in the State of Arizona; and,
- c. Urge our United States Senators and Member of Congress to take whatever action is necessary, including but not limited to, the repeal of NAFTA, to stabilize the economies of Mexico and other Central and South American countries as a means of making illegal immigration by resident of those countries less necessary and attractive.

Name	Address (No. and Street)	Email Address	Signature

born workers become better educated and more mobile,⁹ the productivity of undocumented immigrants in low-wage jobs creates positive spillover effects in the economy.¹⁰ Yet, despite these positive impacts, the fact that undocumented workers are easily exploited relegates them to a separate second-class workforce. The economic incentives that drive

employers to hire and take advantage of undocumented immigrants lower the floor on health, safety, and wage protections for all workers. Empowering undocumented workers through legalization would enable all workers to compete on a level playing field while ensuring that the workforce responds to important demands in the economy.

2. Undocumented Workers and Language

Most immigrants make learning English a priority.

In a survey published in 2006, 57% of foreign-born Latino* immigrants said they believe that "immigrants have to speak English to say they are part of American society."¹¹ Regardless of their level of education or income, a majority of Hispanics agree that immigrants should speak English.¹² In fact, more than half (52%) of foreign-born Latinos living in the U.S. speak both English and Spanish. Hispanic immigrants also value teaching English to their children. According to the survey, 96% of foreign-born Latinos believe that teaching English to children of immigrants is "very important."¹³

Immigrants especially recognize the importance of English on the job. All Latinos are more likely to use English in the workplace than at home. At work, 29% of Hispanic immigrants speak only or

mostly English and 24% speak English and Spanish equally. This means that English is used on the job in some capacity by more than half of Latino immigrants.¹⁴

Native Spanish-speakers dominate English as a Second Language (ESL) classes throughout the country. The desire to learn English is so pervasive in the immigrant community that, nationwide, ESL programs for adults are overbooked and overcrowded. In 2006, 57.4% of ESL providers throughout the U.S. reported having waiting lists for prospective students. The wait times ranged from three weeks to three years.¹⁵ In high-demand areas such as New York City, providers have replaced waiting lists with a lottery system that turns away three out of every four people.¹⁶ The overwhelming demand for ESL resources confirms that learning English is a priority for most immigrants in the U.S.

* The terms "Hispanic" and "Latino" are used interchangeably by the U.S. Census Bureau and throughout this document to identify persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American, Dominican, and Spanish descent; they may be of any race.