

APAHE

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

July 19, 2010

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The Honorable Jan Brewer
Governor of Arizona
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Brewer:

As a national higher education organization representing Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE) is opposed to Arizona's Senate Bill (SB)1070, one of the most stringent, anti-immigration laws in the United States.

This new law requires law enforcement officers and other officials in Arizona to act as immigration enforcement agents by detaining "suspicious" individuals who are not carrying immigration documents. Those most likely to be stopped and asked for their immigration papers will be people of color. These individuals will not only include Hispanics but also Asian Pacific Islander Americans (APIA), African Americans, and Native Americans. In order to enforce this law, officials will inevitably be using racial profiling as a tool.

This law foments anger, fear and hostility and serves to legitimate discrimination and prejudice towards ethnic minority groups. This is not the first time that Asian Pacific Islander Americans have been the object of "legal" discrimination related to immigration, exclusion, restriction and racial profiling. Examples are the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, the internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans during WWII, the racial profiling of South Asian Americans following September 11, 2001, and the exclusion of Asian Pacific Islander Americans from the affirmative action lists of universities and colleges even though Asian Pacific Islander Americans have been the target of discrimination and are still underrepresented in multiple areas.

As an educational organization, APAHE stands for justice, inclusion, and access to education. We work to protect Asian Pacific Islander Americans and other communities of color in higher education, including students, faculty and staff. SB1070 will especially affect the lives of students. Our students will be traumatized, harassed and may even forgo an educational opportunity because of the fear and anger caused by the various tactics and strategies deployed as part of the implementation of SB1070. Asian and Pacific Islander faculty and

staff are, of course, vulnerable to being stopped like other individuals of color but they are also fearful about being required to act as immigration agents by demanding additional “documentation” from students or being subject to legal action if they do not.

We proudly join other communities of color such as the Asian American Justice Center, Asian Pacific American Legal Center, Asian American Institute, Asian American Center for Advancing Justice, the Japanese American Citizens League, the Asian American Psychological Association, National Council on Black American Affairs, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, American Civil Liberties Union, the National Immigration Law Center, National Day Labor Organizing Network, and with leaders of the Arizona Asian American community who adamantly oppose SB1070 because it will increase the harassment, discrimination, racial profiling, trauma and fear within and between all Americans.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carole Hayashino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carole Hayashino
President, APAHE