

Arizona law sets off national debate

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Body

The Philadelphia Inquirer, in an editorial: "The Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhood Act, signed (April 23) by Gov. Jan Brewer, gives police in Arizona authority to question anyone if there is a 'reasonable suspicion' that he is an illegal immigrant. ... But with 12 million illegal immigrants in this country, a round-them-up-and-send-them-back approach won't work. The cost alone is prohibitive. And many who came here illegally are living upstanding lives. People who are working hard, raising families, staying out of trouble and paying taxes -- on their purchases, if nothing else -- deserve the opportunity to make amends and be placed on a path toward legal residency and eventual citizenship."

Rich Lowry, editor, in National Review: "The police already have the power to stop illegal aliens, a power the Arizona courts have upheld; they already can ask about someone's legal status ... and they already can detain illegal aliens. ... (Arizona) has an estimated 460,000 illegal aliens out of a population of 6.6 million. They impose countless millions of dollars in schooling, health care and incarceration costs, more than \$1 billion a year in one estimate. ... Arizonans needn't, and shouldn't, tolerate this. Critics accuse the state of unconstitutionally devising its own immigration policy. If it had unilaterally declared its border open to the poor, violence-plagued country to its south, this charge might have had force. Instead, Arizona seeks only to enforce the nominal immigration policy of the United States. Perhaps the federal government should try it sometime."

The Dallas Morning News, in an editorial: "What would lead a Phoenix cop, a Maricopa County sheriff's deputy or an Arizona state trooper to suspect that this person on the street was here without proper documentation? Therein lies the problem with SB 1070. It does little, if anything, to protect Arizonans from people crossing the border illegally. But it does add a layer of unreasonable suspicion to anyone who might look as if they did. ... If you live in Arizona and look like you're from Mexico, El Salvador or Guatemala, you're a suspect who must prove your citizenship or legal status. And if you believe this law might be applied uniformly to Arizona's non-Latino residents, seriously, is that really reasonable?"

Michelle Malkin, columnist, in RealClearPolitics: "Mexican President Felipe Calderon has accused Arizona of opening the door 'to intolerance, hate, discrimination and abuse in law enforcement.' But Arizona has nothing on Mexico when it comes to cracking down on illegal aliens. ... Illegal entry into the country is equivalent to a felony punishable by two years' imprisonment. Document fraud is subject to fine and imprisonment; so is alien marriage fraud. Evading deportation is a serious crime; illegal re-entry after deportation is punishable by 10 years' imprisonment. Foreigners may be kicked out of the country without due process. ... There's been no public clamor for 'comprehensive immigration reform' in Mexico, however, because pro-illegal alien speech by outsiders is prohibited."

Los Angeles Times, in an editorial: "Thank you, Arizona. Despite our strong condemnation of a new law that will likely promote racial profiling of Latinos in your state, we must acknowledge that you have accomplished what many others -- including senators, committed activists and a willing president -- have failed to achieve. You put immigration back on the national agenda."

Graphic

PHOTO, B/W, John Moore, Getty Images

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