

## **Top court tips hand on immigration?**

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### **Body**

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The Arizona Republic, in an editorial: "Some crystal-ball readers suggest the Supreme **Court** may anoint parts of Senate Bill 1070 constitutional. Supporters of (the law) were understandably cheered by the tone of Wednesday's oral arguments; things appeared to go well for their side. Even if the **court** blesses SB1070 as constitutional, it will remain a bad idea for Arizona. It established attrition through enforcement as state policy. But that strategy is simply cruel. It aims to make people so fearful and uncomfortable that they leave the country. Many undocumented people have deep roots in communities where they have given their labor and love. Many have U.S.-born children. The problems surrounding illegal **immigration** need to be solved humanely."

Richard F. LaMountain, in The Oregonian: "Illegal **immigration** costs U.S. taxpayers about \$113 billion a year at the federal, state and local levels,' estimated the Federation for American **Immigration** Reform in 2010. An estimated 8 million working illegal immigrants take jobs from unemployed Americans. SB1070 seeks, justifiably, to mitigate these costs to Arizonans. How, conversely, does the Obama administration approach illegal **immigration**? It has suspended action against many of the 300,000 illegal immigrants who had faced deportation and cleared many of them to hold U.S. jobs. It has curtailed raids of businesses known to employ illegal workers. Actions like these, Arizona says, force the state to 'shoulder a disproportionate burden of the national problem of illegal **immigration**.' Its solution, SB1070, is legal, fair and necessary."

Kristian Ramos, on The Huffington Post: "A patchwork of state-passed **immigration** laws does nothing to fix the utterly broken process of legal **immigration** into the country. The majority of undocumented immigrants in the country are visa overstays who came into the country legally. The number of immigrants who apply to come in legally far outnumbers the allocations for visas currently given. Even if possible, deporting all of the undocumented immigrants in the country would accomplish nothing, if the process of legally moving people into and out of the country is not fixed. The **court's** decision will only reinforce a simple fact: The only entity that can fix the mess we are in is Congress."

The Wall Street Journal, in an editorial: "(Arizona legislators) carefully crafted a state law that is consistent with the federal **immigration** laws already on the books. All Arizona does is instruct state police to enforce federal **immigration** laws -- for instance, by calling federal officials if a person they arrest can't verify his legal status. If the White House doesn't like those federal laws, it is welcome to persuade Congress to change them. The administration is using pre-emption doctrine as a pretext to not enforce those rules and strip Arizona of the authority that Congress bestowed as part of its power to manage the nation's borders."

Mary Sanchez in The Kansas City Star: "Arizona can't deport people. That's the role of the federal government. Nor can it decide who is granted legal status, or take that status away. It doesn't control who is given a visa, work authorization or asylum. And it certainly can't do much to address our country's need for low-wage labor. (Arizona Gov. Jan) Brewer argues that it was failure at the federal level that created the illegal **immigration** problem. And she's right. However, only federal action can fix this problem. And on this point, the U.S. Supreme **Court** must unequivocally set the states straight. Then Congress has to get to work."

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