

LAW 'GOING TO BREAK US APART'

Daily News (New York)

April 29, 2010 Thursday, SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2010 Daily News, L.P.



Section: NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 400 words

Byline: BY EDGAR SANDOVAL DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Body

PHOENIX - Jose Luis truly believed that nothing could splinter his close-knit family - until the day Arizona's new immigration **law** was approved.

"When the bill passed, I ran to my room and cried," the 20-year-old Arizona State University sophomore said. "My mom came into my room and asked me, 'What's wrong?' I told her, 'They are **going** to **break** us **apart**.' "

The family is divided by their birthplaces: Jose Luis and his mother are from Mexico; his two siblings were born in Arizona.

The legislation, the toughest in the nation, gives cops the power to arrest anyone who can't prove he lives in the U.S. legally. The state's estimated 500,000 illegal immigrants include Jose Luis and his mom, who launched a new life in Arizona when she was 19 and her baby boy just 1.

"I never thought the **law** would get this far. Now I'm afraid to lose some of my children," said his mom, Maria, 39. The family spoke on the condition of withholding its last name. The **law** doesn't take effect until August, but it's already causing cracks in the clan. The U.S.-born kids say they have no intention of **going** to Mexico if their mom and brother are deported.

The family lives in a modest two-bedroom apartment in the Garfield section of Phoenix, an immigrant enclave. Once the **law goes** into effect, "We would be hiding like criminals," Maria said.

"All I ever wanted is to give my children a better future," said Maria, who abandoned her native Sinaloa for Phoenix. She found work as a janitor and love with a husband in Phoenix. He left after the birth of their second child.

"Mom has done so much for us," said Lambert, 18, a senior in high school and a U.S. citizen. "If she is deported with my brother, I don't even want to think about it."

Maria recently told her kids to to prepare for the worst. "If we get deported," she said, "you guys are coming with me back to Mexico."

Jose Luis would have no choice, but American-born Lambert and Karen plan to stay with relatives in Arizona. "Two of my children belong to the United States," Maria said somberly. "I want them to belong with me."

While cooking a recent dinner of caldo de pollo, a chicken stew, Maria asked Jose Luis about a mysterious car parked outside their home. "Call the cops," her son told her, his attention on his laptop.

LAW 'GOING TO BREAK US APART'

"Are you crazy?" Maria replied, shaking her head in disbelief. "I don't want the police anywhere near this house."

esandoval@nydailynews.com

Graphic

"I'm afraid to lose some of my children," says Maria, with sons Lambert (l.) & Jose Luis. Photo by Corey Sipkin Daily News

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: IMMIGRATION (89%); DEPORTATION (89%); LEGISLATION (89%); CHILDREN (88%); US STATE IMMIGRATION **LAW** (78%); ARIZONA IMMIGRATION **LAW** (78%); FAMILY (78%); IMMIGRATION **LAW** (78%); PREGNANCY & CHILDBIRTH (75%); INFANTS & TODDLERS (75%); ARRESTS (74%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (73%); APPROVALS (73%)

Organization: ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY (58%)

Geographic: PHOENIX, AZ, USA (88%); ARIZONA, USA (94%); UNITED STATES (94%); MEXICO (93%)

Load-Date: April 29, 2010

End of Document