

VOP ACTION ALERT: HCR 2039

Undocumented immigrants declared felony trespassers

SUMMARY:

At its March 19 meeting, the St. Vincent de Paul Diocesan Council Board voted to oppose HCR 2039, believing its provisions cross the line from enforcement to violations of human rights contained in both the U.S. and Arizona Constitutions.

HCR (House Concurrent Resolution) 2039 creates the crime of “felony trespass” for persons who are in the state illegally. The legislation requires that local, county and state officials determine the legal status of anyone who is arrested. If a person is without papers, they will be turned over to ICE for deportation with felony trespass on their record.

A felony record makes the individual ineligible to apply for legal status in the U.S. at any time in the future going far beyond the current 3 year and 10 year bars in civil law.

Provisions contained in HCR 2039 were vetoed last year by the governor. If HCR 2039 is passed by both houses at the legislature, it can be put directly on the ballot as a referendum without review by the governor.

STATUS OF HCR 2039:

The bill has been passed by House committees and is on the House Committee as a Whole Calendar (3/26/08). If approved, it will be sent to the Senate for consideration.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS AND OPPOSE HCR 2039:

“I am your constituent and urge you to oppose HCR 2039 which would create the crime of felony trespass in Arizona.”

If you do not know who your State Legislators are, go to www.azleg.gov and click on “How to Find My Legislators” in the left hand column. You will have two members of the House of Representatives and one State Senator. You may either call their offices and leave a message or send a short e-mail. Be sure and state you are a constituent!

Attachment:

Letter to Members of the Arizona Legislature from SVdP President Steve Jenkins