

ACTION ALERT

Voice of the Poor continues to monitor the status of two identical immigration bills, HB 2632 and SB 1070. Both bills are **opposed** by the Arizona Catholic Conference (Bishop Kicanas of Tucson, Bishop Olmsted of Phoenix and Bishop Wall of Gallup) and the Diocesan Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. A recent editorial in the Arizona Republic urged the governor to veto these bills if they reach her desk.

It is our strong feeling that such legislation will be harmful to the state and deter crimes from being reported and prosecuted, making our communities less safe. We are concerned that these bills will lead to separation of family members and the unfortunate criminalization of children brought into the U.S. by their parents. Enactment of this legislation would ultimately result in increased costs to the state at a time when it is least able to bear this burden.

We support the bishops' statement that "the problems with our immigration system are complex, and it is our prayer and hope that Congress will ultimately address this broken system with comprehensive immigration reform."

HB 2632 lacks only approval at Third Read in the House. SB 1070, passed by the Senate, is scheduled to be heard this Wednesday, March 31 at 9 a.m. (HHR3) by the House Committee on Military Affairs and Public Safety. Please call or e-mail the offices of the members of this committee and express opposition to SB 1070 and urge a "NO" vote on SB 1070.

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