

## Voice of the Poor

### ACTION ALERT and WEEKLY REPORT for 04 11 10

#### ACTION ALERT #1:

**SB 1070 (immigration; law enforcement; safe neighborhoods)** still awaits a final vote in the House this week.

This bill will criminalize children who are legally here in the U.S., as well as their undocumented parents who are only guilty of trying to feed their families. *Arizona's bishops as well as SVdP oppose this bill.*

Don't forget to call and e-mail your legislators, House members are priority, early this week.

#### Who are My Legislators?

**ONLINE:** Go to [www.azleg.gov](http://www.azleg.gov) and click on "How do I find my Legislators?" There is a small box in the upper right hand corner for your address and zip code. The number of your congressional district (federal) and legislative district (state) will be displayed. Click on List of State Senators and Representatives (in green) and scroll down to find the elected members from your district.

**BY PHONE:** Call the Information Desk and ask for help in determining your elected members:

Arizona State Senate: (602) 926-3559

Arizona State House: (602) 926-4221

#### ACTION ALERT #2:

#### May 18<sup>th</sup> Special Election: 1% temporary sales tax increase

This week district presidents will receive a letter from Voice of the Poor about the need to support Proposition 100, the 1% temporary sales tax increase. A flyer on the issue to be distributed to conferences will be included. Time is of the essence as many members may be voting by mail ballot. If you missed it, below is the link from today's Arizona Republic editorial on the need for this additional tax:

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/opinions/articles/2010/04/11/20100411sun1-10.html>

The SVdP Board has supported this proposal for nearly two years.

### **Getting to the End?**

The Senate and House have stopped hearing bills in standing committees, and Floor Calendars are crowded with bills their sponsors want out before the Legislature adjourns Sine Die. There is an exception. Senate Finance, with the permission of the President, will be hearing one bill, HB 2250.

### **HB 2250 (Arizona's job recovery act)**

This bill will be heard April 12 at 1:30 in Senate Finance.

While the cost of this bill will be shaved by the Strike All amendment, it will still cost \$275 million in its first year. This is because it repeals A.R.S. 15-994, State equalization assistance property tax levy. That alone will cost \$250 million for education. The other provisions are put off until 2014 to make the bill appear to be less expensive.

Call or e-mail your Senator, and ask him or her to vote no on this one.

### **The End of Payday Lending in Arizona...?**

We need to thank all those who worked hard to kill the Payday Loan bills – foremost are Kathy Jorgensen and Lucy Howell. Senator Harper made one last ditch attempt to eliminate the “sunset” via a Strike Everything amendment to HB 2305. The reaction against this revival was so intense he withdrew the bill from the agenda; however, there is a real possibility that they will try again before the session ends.

### **Stay tuned for more information on the following:**

#### **HCR 2039 (temporary suspension; voter-protected funding)**

Grants the Legislature authority to do the following by majority vote in FYs 2011-2014:

- Ø Appropriate or divert not more than 50 percent of any fund revenue or fund balance created or allocated to a specific purpose by any measure;
- Ø Amend or supersede a measure that requires an expenditure of state revenues;
- Ø Amend or supersede a measure in order to implement this act.

1. Stipulates that monies appropriated or diverted are segregated by source and legislatively appropriated, to the extent possible, for purposes similar to those allowed in the measure authorizing the collection of the monies.
2. States that any bill passed by the Legislature pursuant to this act is effective until no later than June 30, 2014.
3. Requires the Secretary of State to submit the proposition to the voters at the next general election.
4. Becomes effective if approved by the voters and on proclamation of the Governor.

The bill is in the Senate Rules Committee.

This bill is similar to the Payday loan issue in that it goes against the vote of the people. The Voter Protection Act passed because most voters disliked the Legislature changing or repealing programs the voters thought were worthwhile.

### **SCR 1001 (early childhood development; health; repeal)**

This bill passed back in March. The vote in the House was 31-28; the vote was mostly along party lines with Democrats and some moderate Republicans (i.e. Bill Konopnicki) voting Nay. The vote in the Senate was strictly along party lines, 17-13.

The First Things First program was voted into being by the voters in 2006 and is financed by a tax on tobacco products. St Vincent de Paul supported FTF as a means of ensuring adequate preparation for school for all of Arizona's children.

The First Things First folks offered to loan the state \$300 million to be repaid, interest free, in 2017. Their offer was accepted by the Governor, but refused by the Legislature.

We don't have a proposition number for the Concurrent Resolution passed by the Legislature; however, we will need to strategize in preparation for the General Election.