

**American Sociological Association
Council Resolution on State of Arizona SB 1070
May 28, 2010**

Whereas the American Sociological Association (ASA), the national organization for sociologists with nearly 15,000 national and international members employed in scientific, academic, government, business, and professional positions, is mindful of the need to speak out against violations of democratic rights;

Whereas SB 1070, the so-called “show your papers” law, violates U.S. principles of liberty and justice;

Whereas historically totalitarian states, not democracies, have required persons at all times to carry official identification documenting citizenship and allowed unfettered police discretion based on arbitrary or politically motivated “suspicion” of specific categories of members within the populace;

Whereas enforcement of SB 1070 violates the constitutional right to the presumption of innocence by assuming guilt that can only be disproved by an individual having on their person official identification papers;

Whereas SB 1070 contravenes the long-established tradition in the United States of America that state and local governments do not give carte blanche to police to arrest anyone—who in their judgment might be a criminal—without reasonable cause;

Whereas Arizona’s violation of American principles and democratic values subjects ASA members to a significant risk of detention while in the State of Arizona;

Whereas the passage of SB 1070 has inflamed anti-Latino passions and created a poisonous atmosphere that has resulted in death threats to a University of Arizona professor and many others including public officials in Arizona who have voiced their opposition to SB 1070;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of the American Sociological Association publicly condemns the Arizona legislature and Governor Brewer for enacting SB 1070 and calls for its repeal.

Be it further resolved that the Association refrain from holding its meetings in or conducting business in Arizona until SB 1070 is repealed or negated.