

CATHOLIC MINISTERS FOR CHURCH RENEWAL

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Catholic Ministers for Church Renewal stand in support of the people of Arizona and against law SB 1070, signed April 23 by Arizona Governor Jan Brewer, that requires police to stop and question anyone they have “reasonable suspicion” to believe to be undocumented.

By expanding police powers to stop, question and detain individuals they believe to be “foreign”, this law instigates racial profiling as a norm, promotes fear, and drives a wedge between groups.

It is mean-spirited and retrogressive immigration law, which could make felons not only out of dangerous criminals (as is desired) but also out of any undocumented immigrant who may have lived in our country a long time, in response to dire economic needs in his or her own country and in response to this country’s ‘help wanted’ signs.

Its flawed premise is that immigrants come to our country to rob and consume public resources. The federal government needs to reclaim its responsibility to enforce immigration law.

We stand with ecumenical leaders, including the Catholic bishops of Arizona, and with other advocacy groups in strong opposition to the law. We consider it to be detrimental public policy, and an affront to Catholic social teaching on respect for immigrants and on immigration reform.

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CMCR: Supporting, Proclaiming, Renewing