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**SB 1070 IS A ONE-SIZE FITS ALL LOOPHOLE FOR DISCRIMINATION, SAYS NPRC**

***“Passage of Bill Shows Need for Nation’s Comprehensive Immigration Reform ASAP”***

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** (April 21) – The National Puerto Rican Coalition, Inc. (NPRC), an organization that focuses on strengthening the social needs of Hispanics nationwide, today noted that while Arizona faces unique immigration challenges unlike other states, passage of SB 1070 would not exactly solve the state’s immigration issue. The bill, now on the desk of Arizona’s governor Jan Brewer R-Ariz., would enact the nation’s toughest immigration law which may take away Arizonans’ legal rights.

“Law enforcement officers are trained to enforce laws, not immigration policies,” noted NPRC Chairman Miguel Lausell. “They are here to protect and preserve communities and its citizens, not to profile them as criminals based solely on their looks.”

If signed, the bill would allow law enforcement officials to question anyone they suspect is illegally residing in the state and arrest them without any reference or evidence about their legal status. Additionally, it would require immigrants to carry proper identification demonstrating their proper status, otherwise they would be arrested.

“It is sad to see politically frail policymakers put at stake the livelihood of millions,” said NPRC President Rafael Fantauzzi. “Their actions will result in increased discriminatory activity and frivolous lawsuits,” added Fantauzzi. “Where will the local government find the funds to cover their defense?” “Taxpayers of course.”

On Tuesday, Latino lawmakers in Congress called on Arizona’s governor to veto the bill stating the bill would foster racial profiling, making it among the nation’s toughest immigration measures. Its lead sponsor, Republican Senator Russell Pearce said the bill is needed to fill a void in the federal government.

“This bill sets a ‘clear and present danger’ of confusing patriotism with racism,” asserted Fantauzzi. “This is the new and improved version of ‘Driving While Brown’ which allows police and law enforcement officials one more loophole for racial discrimination.”

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The National Puerto Rican Coalition, Inc. (NPRC) is a non-profit non-partisan advocacy community organization with its mission is to systematically strengthen and enhance the social, political, and economic well-being of all Puerto Ricans throughout the United States and in Puerto Rico with a special focus on the most vulnerable.