

## **OPEN LETTER FROM ARIZONA BUSINESS, FAITH AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

February 23, 2024

Dear Governor Katie Hobbs, Speaker Ben Toma and Senate President Warren Peterson:

We, the undersigned business, faith, and community leaders, come together to express our strong opposition to HCR 2060 and the Arizona Invasion Act (House Bill 2748, SB 1231). We can all agree that our current immigration system is broken. Here in Arizona, we need real solutions, not fear mongering and scapegoating of immigrants — the continued easy and vulnerable target in an election year.

Both proposals are turbo-charged versions of AZ SB 1070 or “show me your papers” law that passed in 2010. SB 1070 undermined Arizonans’ public safety, destroyed our reputation, and deteriorated our economy as businesses and conventions boycotted the state for its anti-immigrant climate. Our state incurred a [loss](#) of \$141 million after SB1070’s enactment in 2010, with a rippling loss of 2,761 jobs, \$86.5 million loss in earnings, a \$253 million loss in economic output, and \$9.4 million loss in tax revenues to the state. It also severely damaged the relationship with Arizona’s largest trading partner — Mexico. Arizona has seen this “movie” before, and it did not end well.

HCR 2060 and the Arizona Invasion Act will threaten every Arizonan’s public safety and weaken the economy. Like SB 1070, these proposals will deputize local police and other officials to verify the immigration status of immigrants, and arrest and detain otherwise law-abiding immigrant workers as they drive to work, church, and their children to school. They will generate fear and erode trust between immigrants and local police. When immigrants are afraid to come forward to help and cooperate with police to solve crimes, it damages the safety of all Arizonans.

These anti-immigrant proposals will cause unnecessary disruption to the workforce. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, there are [9.5 million job openings](#) and only 6.5 million unemployed workers, leaving a significant gap of nearly [3 million open jobs](#). Arizona currently only has [71 available workers for every 100 open jobs](#). This labor shortage and further workforce disruption will drive up inflation and underscores the importance of adopting policies that attract and integrate workers rather than deter them.

We need real solutions to our broken immigration system, not election-year scapegoating. Rather than political gamesmanship, we urge our elected leaders to support [legal work permits](#) for long-term immigrant contributors, and sensible border provisions advanced by our U.S. Senators Kyrsten Sinema and Mark Kelly.

Immigrants are [vital](#) to Arizona's economy. Immigrants constitute approximately one-sixth of Arizona's labor force, playing a vital role in bolstering the local economy through various means. Among their contributions, immigrants represent 22.7 percent of entrepreneurs, 19.1 percent of STEM workers, and 12.0 percent of nurses within the state. Immigrants in Arizona contribute a total of \$8.7 billion in taxes paid and possess a combined spending power of \$26.4 billion.

We urge you, our elected leaders, to commit to advancing policies that attract talent, promote innovation, and contribute to the prosperity of Arizona. Please say "NO" to HR 2060 and HB 2748. Election year scapegoating and fear mongering are bad for Arizona.

Respectfully,

**Bob Worsley**, ABIC Co-Chair and Former Republican Arizona State Senator

**Francis Najafi**, CEO, Pivotal Group; Phoenix Suns Co-Owner

**John Giles**, Mayor, City of Mesa

**Adam Goodman**, CEO, Goodmans

**John Graham**, CEO, Sunbelt Holdings

**Christie Black**, Arizona Chapter Coordinator, Mormon Women for Ethical Government

**Irayda Flores**, Owner, El Mar de Cortez Corp

**Michael Kasser**, CEO, Holualoa Companies

**Kimber Lanning**, CEO, Local First Arizona

**Paul Rockower**, Executive Director, Jewish Community Relations Council of Phoenix

**Steven Zylstra**, President and CEO, Arizona Technology Council

**Civia Tamarkin**, President, National Council of Jewish Women Arizona

**Alan Tavassoli**, President, Catholic Coalition for Migrant Justice

**Carlos Alfaro**, Director, Alder

**Jami Alvarez**, Teacher, Caurus Academy

**Marie Ankrom**, Self Employed

**Jovanna Anzaldua**, Owner, Comal Food Books & Goods

**Rudy Apodaca**, Past Chairman of the Board, East Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

**Gustavo Armendariz**, Retired MD

**Korandus Armstead**, Chief Administrative Officer

**Phillip A Austin**, Attorney

**Daniel Barajas**, Owner, El Cafezito

**Robert Barrios**, Owner, Element Plumbing Services

**Ciara Bennett**, Founder, Vintageoats

**Armando Bernasconi**, Executive, QC

**Tanner Bishop**, Partner, Royal Covers of Arizona, Inc.

**Kimberly Bagues**, Founder/CEO, Flourish Business Services, LLC

**Ann Bommersbach**, Accountant, Urban Cookies

**James Boyle**, Owner, Casa Grande Dairy Co.

**Kerwin Brown**, Executive Director, Tanner Community Development Corporation

**Robert Bruening**, Manager, Pines Inn & Suites

**Kristen Burkhart Ferhati**, Owner, Re Di Roma Wood-Fired Pizza

**Elyssa Bustamante**, Event Producer, Funky Latina Productions

**Silvia Caro**, Designer, WESTMARC

**Cyndy Carstens**, Owner, Self Employed

**Laura Chamberlin**, Owner, Self Employed

**Dorothy Chandler**, Co-owner, Noble Beast Pets

**Thomas Clark**, President, Action Appraisals, Inc

**Lauren Click**, Director, Lets Go Compost

**Rick Collins**, Division President (retired), Ryan Companies

**Melvin Cruz**, Buckeye

**Julianne Daniells**, Owner, DanceWise Dance Studio

**Lauren Danuser**, Owner, Local Nomad

**Teri Davis**, CEO, Sierra Signs Service Inc.

**Kristopher Dohse**, Owner, Cultivate Counseling Flagstaff

**Kathleen Dreier**, Kathleen Dreier Photography

**Amy Dryden**, Owner, AEC Printing

**Patty Emmert**, Director of Resilient Food Systems, Local First Arizona

**Petra Falcon**, Executive Director, Promise Arizona

**Robert Fambrini**, Pastor, St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

**Becky Fawson**, CEO, Kingman Area Chamber Of Commerce

**Phil Francis**, Former Chairman and CEO

**Juanita Francis**, Retired, RN

**Carla Freeman**, Owner, Abundant Health Arizona

**Elliott Freireich**, Manager, EFMP Holdings

**Laura French**, Self Employed

**Marcos Garay**, EVP, Director of Multicultural Banking, National Bank of Arizona

**Carlos Garcia**, Self Employed

**Daniel Garcia**, Owner, Dagarcustoms Solutions

**Emily Golden**, Writer

**Adrienne Halpert**, President, Adrienne M Design Inc., DBA Global Arts Gallery

**Todd Hanley**, Agave Heritage Festival

**Sharon Harper**, CEO, Plaza Companies

**Greg Haver**, Owner, Monterey Court Cafe

**Debbie Hendricks**, Co-Owner, Just Roughin' It Adventure Company, LLC

**Michelle Hernandez**, Director, Healthylicious

**Sally Holcomb**, Co-owner, Cafe Roka

**Joshua Hsu**, Self Employed

**Angela Hughey**, President, ONE Community

**Prosper Ishimwe**, Small Business Support Manager, LFA

**Karen Jayne**, CEO, Stardust Non-Profit Building Supplies, Inc.

**Rand Jenkins**, Cofounder, Mountain Mojo Group

**Amy Jensen**, Self Employed

**Ian and Beki Katzman**, Construction Manager, A.T. Meridian Construction

**Tom Kelly**, Retired Health Care Executive

**Eric Keosky-Smith**, Director, U-Haul International

**Leatrice Kitchell**, Director of Business Operations, Venue Projects

**Danny Knee**, Executive Director, Community Investment Corporation

**Debera Kopp**, Owner, Kopper Crest Estates

**Julie Kruk**, Retired Professional Counselor

**Leslie Kruk**, Manager of Food Entrepreneurship, Local First Arizona

**Hanna Layton**, Director, Thrive Consultancy Inc

**Joseph Liddy**, President, Liddy Legal Support Services, Inc.

**John Linder**, Rabbi, Temple Solel

**Sophia Lovasz**, Director of Retail Entrepreneurship, Director of Retail Entrepreneurship

**Susan Lovato**

**Jeremy Macdonald**, Head of Business Transformation, ISS Facilities

**Kalila P. Martinez de Aragon**, Owner, Coldwater Coffeehouse and Bakery

**Nicholas Mazur**, Managing Partner, APN Staffing and Employment Solutions

**Ann Karen McGowan**, Owner

**Mary Jane McGrath**, Teacher, Musicology

**Sara Miles**, Owner, Smiles Dog Training

**Fred Miller**, Past Owner/Retired, Copper City Inn

**Charles Mitchell**, CEO, All About People

**Marianne Moriarty**

**Steve Morken**, President, THAT Brewing Company, LLC

**Tamora Muir**, Organizer, Vail ReSources, Casa Alitas, Vail USD

**Mike Mulvihill**, Owner, PossibiliTEAMS Team Building Events & Activities

**Kathy Nakagawa**, Self Employed

**John Neville**, President, Sustainable Arizona

**Gregory Nielsen**, Security Guard, QXL Security

**Jennifer Nielson**, Realtor, West USA Realty

**Ryan Oberholtze**, Self Employed

**Troy Oltmanns**

**Lulu O'Meara**, Faith Leader

**Leslie Owen**, Owner, Stillpoint Meditation

**Stephanie Parra**, Executive Director, ALL In Education

**José Patiño**, Vice President of Education and External Affairs, Aliento

**Alyssa Prewitt**, Director, Local First AZ

**J. Doug Pruitt**, Retired

**Sebastian Ramirez**, Owner, Cafetal Coffee LLC

**Julie Ray**, Consultant, Julie Ray Creative

**Bevla Reeves**, Owner, Savory Sky Foods, LLC

**Denise Resnik**, CEO, DRA Collective

**Roberto Reveles**, Founding President, Somos America/We Are America

**Alexis Rivera**, Manager, Town of Miami

**Sara Rusk**, Retired

**Donald Schon**, MD, FACP

**Joe Schubach**, Owner, Joseph Schubach Jewelers

**Lisa Sette**, President, Lisa Sette Gallery, Inc.

**Alisa Sever**, Owner, High Desert Vista

**Gayle Shanks**, Owner, Changing Hands Bookstore

**Alyssa Simondet**, Owner, The Common Room

**Nicholas Simondet**, Materials Engineer, Materials Engineer

**Rudi Sinykin**, COO and Co-founder, Kettle Heroes Popcorn

**Caitlynn Sipes**, Local Business Coalition Coordinator, Local First Arizona

**Aileen Smart**, President, Smart Window Creations, Inc

**Clint Smith**, President, Clint W. Smith, PC

**Saul Solis**, Principal, Tempe Elementary School District

**Bob Sommer**, Co-Owner, Changing Hands Bookstore

**Miana Spradlin**, Self Employed

**Carole Stapleton**, Owner, Across Arizona Tours

**Debbie Stiel**, Rabbi, Temple Solel

**Pat Stoneburner**, Secretary, Catholic Coalition for Migrant Justice

**James Strothers**, Owner, Worth Takeaway

**Kelsey Strothers**, Owner, Worth Takeaway

**Marybell G Talamante**, CEO, Talamante & Associate LLC

**Paula Tocker**, CEO, H & Fabrics

**David Tyda**, Co-Owner, BARCOA Agaveria

**Susan Udall**, Retired

**Tami Ursenbach**, Director, County of Mohave

**Guillermo Valencia**, President, Valencia International

**Marsha Vallee**, Co-Owner, Noble Beast Pets

**Lauren VanWinkle**, Manager, Local Jonny's LLC

**Stephanie Vasquez**, Owner, The Fair Trade Cafe

**Robert Walton**, Owner, Desert Wonder Tours, LLC

**Ray Webb**, Owner, Pinal Manufacturing/NeoTatd

**Nancy Wellmeier**, Member, Catholics for Immigrant Justice

**Lori Welty**, Corporate Secretary, FPA, LTD

**Charlene Westgate**, Owner, Westgate Garden Design

**Natasha Winnik**, Owner, Self Employed