

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

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

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

Jovanna Anzaldua, Owner, Comal Food Books & Goods

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

Korandus Armstead, Chief Administrative Officer

Phillip A Austin, Attorney

Daniel Barajas, Owner, El Cafezito

Robert Barrios, Owner, Element Plumbing Services

Armando Bernasconi, Executive, QC

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

Kimberly Bogues, Founder/CEO, Flourish Business Services, LLC

Ann Bommersbach, Accountant, Urban Cookies

Kristen Burkhardt Ferhati, Owner, Re Di Roma Wood-Fired Pizza

Elyssa Bustamante, Event Producer, Funky Latina Productions

Silvia Caro, Designer, WESTMARC

Laura Chamberlin, Owner, Self Employed

Dorothy Chandler, Co-owner, Noble Beast Pets

Lauren Click, Director, Lets Go Compost

Lauren Danuser, Owner, Local Nomad

Kristopher Dohse, Owner, Cultivate Counseling Flagstaff

Petra Falcon, Executive Director, Promise Arizona

Phil Francis, Former Chairman and CEO

Juanita Francis, Retired, RN

Elliott Freireich, Manager, EFMP Holdings

Laura French

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

Sharon Harper, CEO, Plaza Companies

Angela Hughey, President, ONE Community

Prosper Ishimwe, Small Business Support Manager, LFA

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

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

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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

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Nicholas Mazur, Managing Partner, APN Staffing and Employment Solutions

Sara Miles, Owner, Smiles Dog Training

Charles Mitchell, CEO, All About People

Marianne Moriarty

Steve Morken, President, THAT Brewing Company, LLC

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

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Joe Schubach, Owner, Joseph Schubach Jewelers

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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

Carole Stapleton, Owner, Across Arizona Tours

Debbie Stiel, Rabbi, Temple Solel

Pat Stoneburner, Secretary, Catholic Coalition for Migrant Justice

Kelsey Strothers, Owner, Self Employed

David Tyda, Co-Owner, BARCOA Agaveria

Marsha Vallee, Co-Owner, Noble Beast Pets

Robert Walton, Owner, Desert Wonder Tours, LLC

Nancy Wellmeier, Member, Catholics for Immigrant Justice

Lori Welty, Corporate Secretary, FPA, LTD

Charlene Westgate, Owner, Westgate Garden Design

Natasha Winnik, Owner, Self Employed