

April 26, 2010

Washington, DC - On Friday, Governor Jan Brewer of Arizona signed the most radical anti-immigrant bill seen in years that would require law enforcement officials to question people about their immigration status if the officer has a "reasonable suspicion" that the person is in the U.S. illegally. The bill empowers law enforcement to require that suspects prove their immigration status by demanding to see identification, both encouraging and legalizing racial profiling by law enforcement.

"This bill is an unacceptable endorsement of illegal and unconstitutional racial profiling by the government, and threatens to tear apart immigrant families in Arizona," said Miriam Yeung, Executive Director of NAPAWF. NAPAWF condemns the passage of this bill and expresses deep concern that the momentum from anti-immigrant forces may cause similar bills to pass across the country, putting more and more immigrant families and communities at risk. This new law serves as a stark reminder that comprehensive immigration reform is badly needed at the federal level to ensure that immigrants have access to a fair and just path to citizenship.