

Decrying Arizona's Immigration Law via a Universal Human Rights Model **Roy Aranda, Psy.D., J.D.**

AmeriPAC (American Political Action Committee) has mass e-mailings encouraging recipients to send "Blast Faxes" to U.S. Senators, Representatives, and to all State Governors (besides Arizona) in support of Arizona's new law against illegal immigration and encouraging every state to pass the same law. The law, as we know, makes it a crime to be in the state illegally. AmeriPAC argues that, although the law also prohibits profiling and states that anyone in Arizona who is caught committing a crime can be asked to produce proof of US citizenship, being "illegal" in and of itself is a crime and checking ID is the sensible thing to do.

A flaw in their reasoning is that those who oppose the new law are supporters of illegal immigration. They urge, therefore, that it is up to the American people to fight back against proponents of "breaking our laws and threatening our citizens." A way of doing this is to step up to the plate and take action by sending faxes decrying illegal immigration (see sample fax below).

Pro-Arizona immigration law sentiment may, like a contagion, affect other persons and groups. Pro-illegal immigration lobby can spread like wildfire.

I champion the idea of endorsing human rights. A universal model exists: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. There are 30 articles. Article 2 is compelling:

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>

The issue is not one of supporting illegal immigration which is flawed; rather, it is one of supporting human rights. And how we, as a nation, uphold human rights in a manner that does not offend the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, calls for supporting the passage of laws that enables undocumented (I abhor the term "illegal") to have a reasonable chance to satisfy reasonable requirements that will provide a reasonable opportunity to remain in this country—legally. A broad, indiscriminating net that rounds up not only undocumented but properly documented individuals (the false positives that share target criteria used to stop and check undocumented) is irrational and

violative of any sense of fair play within the context of a modern, advanced, and enlightened society that purports to place great value on human rights.

AmeriPAC FAX:

[TITLE] [FIRST NAME] [LAST NAME]
The Capitol

RE: Please SUPPORT the new Arizona immigration law!

Dear [TITLE] [LAST NAME]:

I'm writing to ask you to please SUPPORT the new law against illegal immigration recently passed by Arizona, and to ENCOURAGE every single State to pass the same law.

The simple fact is that the federal government has failed miserably at protecting our borders and enacting sensible solutions that would protect our states, counties and cities from bearing the enormous costs associated with illegal immigration.

The first priority for any elected official is to make sure that the safety and security of every American is well established. If our federal government did its job, then Arizona wouldn't have to take this action, and neither would any other State. You need to employ your leadership role as a servant of THE PEOPLE to assure legislation is passed that will mirror that of the illegal immigration legislation in Arizona.

Please, do the RIGHT thing -- SUPPORT the new law against illegal immigration recently passed by Arizona, and ENCOURAGE every single State to pass the same law. Thank you.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]
[ADDRESS][CITY],
[STATE] [ZIP]