



MEDIA AVAILABILITY
July 6, 2010

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SUING ARIZONA – LIKELY TO DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD

(Washington, July 6) – *The Obama administration is expected to announce today that it is suing Arizona to block implementation of its tough immigration enforcement measure, SB 1070. ImmigrationWorks president Tamar Jacoby issued the following statement.*

SB 1070 is an abomination, no doubt about it, and the White House has been under intense pressure to act. But suing Arizona is a dangerous gamble – one that could end up doing much more harm than good.

The nation is already split down the middle on the Arizona law – so deeply divided that the two sides can no longer hear or understand each other. And an administration lawsuit will only fan the flames of that debate. It will baffle and anger the 60 percent of Americans who support SB 1070. It will inject immigration into midterm campaigns from coast to coast. Perhaps worst of all, it will alienate key lawmakers, from Arizona and elsewhere, without whose help the administration can have little hope of advancing comprehensive immigration reform.

Only the federal government can fix what's wrong with immigration – but not with a lawsuit. What's needed is a balanced, bipartisan overhaul supported by a national consensus. That's what the administration should be focused on – developing consensus on immigration, not exacerbating a widening divide and closing off the possibility of compromise.

**IW USA president Tamar Jacoby can be reached for comment at
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ImmigrationWorks USA is a national federation of small business owners advocating immigration reform. The organization links 25 state-based, pro-immigration business coalitions: employers and trade associations from Florida to Oregon and from every sector of the economy that relies on immigrant workers. IW assists these groups with strategic coordination, messaging and grassroots recruitment as they fight for better immigration law in their states and in Washington. The organization works closely with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Restaurant Association, the National Association of Home Builders, the U.S. Travel Association, the American Farm Bureau Federation and other leading trade groups. Its board of directors includes former U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez, former AZ Rep. Jim Kolbe and Bill Marriott, chairman and CEO of Marriott International, among others.

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