

## A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE OHIO'S IMMIGRATION DISCUSSION

**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT:** We are a United States of America made up of immigrants from around the world. *E Pluribus Unum*, which means “Out of many, one”, is a dictum on the Seal of the United States and adopted by an act of Congress. Immigration policy is the responsibility of the Federal Government. We urge local, regional and state governments to insist the federal government fulfill its responsibilities. We urge passage of a fair and equitable immigration policy applied consistently throughout the United States while protecting its borders.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT:** We respect the rule of law and law enforcement’s professional judgment. Using local law enforcement to apply immigration policy increases the cost of local policing and opens the door further to racial profiling, which is contrary to public safety.

**FAMILIES:** One of the tenets of a thriving community is healthy families. We stand with families in opposition to any program or policy that would disrupt or unnecessarily separate them. We call for policies that unify and support the health and well being of children and families regardless of their status.

**ECONOMY:** Ohio is best served by a growing economy that supports its schools, health and welfare services, local governments and innovative spirit. We respect the economic contributions immigrants make as workers and taxpayers to build this economy. Ohio needs to acknowledge the value of policies that support businesses and legitimize the monetary contributions made by immigrants.

**A FREE SOCIETY:** Immigrants are members of communities throughout Ohio. We are a nation that consistently offers opportunities through innovation brought about by inclusive policies that encourage immigrants to stay. Ohio needs to reflect the principles of a free society by establishing policies that welcome and support immigrants.

June 23, 2011

## BACKGROUND

Today the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati (MARCC) is convening a Press Conference of Judicatory Leaders (religious leaders of denominations) in Southwest Ohio.

They are speaking out for fairness in immigration policy with the moral authority of their elected office. Sixteen judicatories make up our interfaith coalition - The Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati. By working together the religious community feels it can accomplish more than working apart. The mission of our interfaith coalition is "to forgo the luxury of separate ways when a common path can be found". At The Judicatories' Shared Planning Conference in November 2010, judicatory delegates caucused and voted on the two social concerns they wanted The Coalition to work on in 2011. Delegates voted for Immigration as one of the concerns.

About the same time judicatories voted to work on immigration The Utah Compact, a declaration of five principles to guide Utah's immigration discussion, was supported by the religious leaders in Utah as well as by the business community, law enforcement agencies, the state attorney general and other organizations across the state.

The Executive Board of MARCC decided in January to craft a statement, Principles to Guide Ohio's Immigration Discussion, to begin a discussion in Southwest Ohio for an Ohio Compact. Recently, the MARCC Delegates Council passed these Principles. MARCC also has been in discussion with other organizations across the state of Ohio since March regarding local and regional strategies for immigration reform and the possibility of working towards an Ohio Compact.

The Principles are general and act as a starting point for individuals, organizations, institutions and government within our metropolitan region to frame the discussion. We want the discussion of these principles to raise the level of civility and respect for diversity and inclusion of immigrants in our communities and improve immigration policy.

THE FOLLOWING LEADERS OF RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORT THE "DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE OHIO'S IMMIGRATION DISCUSSION," ORGANIZED BY THE METROPOLITAN RELIGIOUS COALITION OF CINCINNATI.

MARCC Judicatory supporters:

Archdiocese of Cincinnati, the Most Rev. Dennis Schnurr, Archbishop

Association of Unity Churches, The Rev. Doris Hoskins

Baptist Ministers Conference of Greater Cincinnati & Vicinity, The Rev. Doc Foster

Cincinnati Conference Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, The Rev. Diane Schwiger-Alexander, President

Cincinnati Islamic Center, Imam Ilyas Nashid

Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio, The Right Rev. Thomas Breidenthal, Bishop

Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Cincinnati, the Rev. Gregory Chandler Sr., President

Ohio River Valley District of the United Methodist Church, the Rev. Jocelyn Roper, Assistant to the District Superintendent

Presbytery of Cincinnati, the Rev. James Di Egidio, General Presbyter

Religious Society of Friends of Greater Cincinnati, Frank Huss

Unitarian-Universalist Council of Greater Cincinnati, M. J. Pierson, President.

United Church of Christ, Southwest Ohio Northern Kentucky Association Ohio Conference, the Rev. Ruth Brandon, Association Minister

Organizations in support:

American Jewish Committee, Cincinnati Region, Barbara Glueck, Director

Board of Rabbis of Greater Cincinnati, Rabbi Margaret Meyer

Faith Community Alliance of Greater Cincinnati, the Rev. Rousseau O'Neal, President

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# States of Immigration

## *How Arizona and The Utah Compact are Shaping the Immigration Debate Everywhere*

The issue of immigration reform galvanized the country when the State of Arizona passed immigration legislation on April 23, 2010, Senate Bill 1070 "Support Our Law and Safe Neighborhoods Act," later signed into law by Governor Jan Brewer. Current U.S. federal law requires "aliens 14 years old or older who are in the country for longer than 30 days to register with the U.S. government and have registration documents in their possession at all times." No alien without papers is charged with a crime.

"The Act makes it a state misdemeanor crime for an alien to be in Arizona without carrying the required documents, and obligates police to make an attempt, when practicable during a "lawful stop, detention or arrest", to determine a person's immigration status if there is reasonable suspicion that the person is an illegal alien." (SB 1070) Meaning now in Arizona, state, county and local law enforcement are obligated to penalize to the full extent of federal law. Federal law reads "Any person arrested cannot be released without confirmation of the person's legal immigration status by the federal government pursuant to § 1373(c) of Title 8 of the United States Code."

Within months of it being signed into law, SB 1070 faced legal challenges which somewhat limited its scope. A recent decision by a federal court ruled parts of the law unconstitutional, but the full legal ramifications have yet to be determined. Other states are watching closely as the court case and application of the law in Arizona unfolds.



### Local Law Enforcement Discretion Limited and Policy Costly

Prior to SB 1070 in Arizona and most other states, law enforcement was not obligated to ask about immigration status. In fact, law enforcement agencies often avoided questioning a person's immigration status to encourage immigrants to cooperate with law enforcement and report crimes, such as domestic violence, drug trafficking, or homicides. With the new legislation come additional costs. Processing misdemeanor crimes, court costs, jail stays and deportation processes increase the expenditures of local governments, which bear the costs of local implementation of immigration reform without federal assistance.

Freedom of discretion on the part of local law enforcement regarding immigration status changed once Arizona passed SB 1070. Soon other state legislators began to introduce copy cat legislation punishing immigrants; the states of Utah, Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio to name a few (refer to p.3 sidebar "State by State").

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## Utah Challenges Its State Initiatives

Utah was the first state to push back on the punitive reforms pursued by its state legislators. In April 2010 The National Immigration Forum, whose mission is to advocate for the value of immigrants and immigration to the United States, was asked to work with lawmakers and the leaders and constituencies that make up Utah's faith and business communities to create a vision, consensus and strategy for constructive immigration reform. The catalyzing leaders of the initial group were the Roman Catholic Bishop of Utah and the former Attorney General of Utah.

Small group presentations and discussions were organized around the theme of fair immigration reform. The leaders felt by educating the participants it would build a common language and eventually a consensus for a unifying statement. Members from the faith and business communities, institutions, community organizations and political parties participated in the discussions.

When a consensus was reached on what was most important for fair immigration reform, the group looked to the Mayflower Compact as a source of inspiration for drafting unifying statement. Crafted in 1620 at Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts by the Pilgrims, some of the first immigrants to the United States, the Compact sought to lay out a framework for making "just and equal laws. . . for the general good of the colony" despite religious differences. With the Mayflower Compact as their influence, the Utah coalition engaged in any conversations among a variety

of groups, such as Faith Groups, Chamber of Commerce, United Way and Democratic and Republican elected officials. Over six months, The Utah Compact was crafted based on five principles to guide Utah's immigration discussion. The final statement was signed on November 15, 2010.



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## THE UTAH COMPACT

A declaration of five principles to guide Utah's immigration discussion

**FEDERAL SOLUTIONS** Immigration is a federal policy issue between the U.S. government and other countries—not Utah and other countries. We urge Utah's congressional delegation, and others, to lead efforts to strengthen federal laws and protect our national borders. We urge state leaders to adopt reasonable policies addressing immigrants in Utah.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT** We respect the rule of law and support law enforcement's professional judgment and discretion. Local law enforcement resources should focus on criminal activities, not civil violations of federal code.

**FAMILIES** Strong families are the foundation of successful communities. We oppose policies that unnecessarily separate families. We champion policies that support families and improve the health, education and well-being of all Utah children.

**ECONOMY** Utah is best served by a free-market philosophy that maximizes individual freedom and opportunity. We acknowledge the economic role immigrants play as workers and taxpayers. Utah's immigration policies must reaffirm our global reputation as a welcoming and business-friendly state.

**A FREE SOCIETY** Immigrants are integrated into communities across Utah. We must adopt a humane approach to this reality, reflecting our unique culture, history and spirit of inclusion. The way we treat immigrants will say more about us as a free society and less about our immigrant neighbors. Utah should always be a place that welcomes people of goodwill.

Most organizations approved and signed the agreement, such as The United Way, Chamber of Commerce, faith communities and the political parties, as well as other organizations and individuals. The major exception was The Church of the Latter Day Saints. Although the Mormon Church felt they could not sign the Compact, they agreed to support it due to the amount of time it would take to get approval through their hierarchical body.

The Utah Compact influenced its state legislature almost instantly because it had the support of many constituencies throughout the state. But more importantly, the conversation and movement began at the local level, led by the faith community and law enforcement officials, who influenced the tone, level of support and momentum of consensus for the final document. Since this time Utah passed a Guest Worker program to begin implementation in 2013 with the hope that before that time the Federal Government will reach consensus in Congress for a fair and comprehensive immigration bill which the President would expediently sign into law.