



PRESS RELEASE
July 8, 2010

For Immediate Release
Contact: Inez Gonzalez
(213) 718-0740

DOJ Challenges Arizona Over S.B. 1070

Pasadena, CA. - The National Hispanic Media Coalition (NHMC) commends the U.S. Department of Justice for challenging Arizona's S.B. 1070. The Arizona law has inflamed the national debate over immigration policy and thrust the issue back into the media spotlight. "S.B. 1070 is not the answer to the immigration problem facing this country. Individual states should not come up with their own immigration enforcement laws; this would be an irresponsible path for this country to take and President Obama's Administration did the right thing in intervening now," said Alex Nogales, NHMC's President and CEO.

In its law suit the DOJ states that S.B. 1070 unconstitutionally interferes with the federal government's authority to set and enforce immigration policy, explaining that "the Constitution and federal law do not permit the development of a patchwork of state and local immigration policies throughout the country." A patchwork of state and local policies would seriously disrupt federal immigration enforcement. Having enacted its own immigration policy that conflicts with federal immigration law, Arizona "crossed a constitutional line."

The spotlight on the immigration debate has once again caused an increase in hate rhetoric on all media. NHMC will continue to track hate speech against Latinos and other vulnerable groups as it awaits action from the federal government on its pending petition for inquiry at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The petition urges the federal policymakers to examine the extent and effects of hate speech in media, including the likely link between hate speech and hate crimes, and to explore non-regulatory ways to counteract its negative impacts especially on Latino Children.

###

The National Hispanic Media Coalition is a non-profit, media advocacy organization established in 1986 in Los Angeles, California. Our mission is to improve the image of American Latinos as portrayed by the media, increase the number of American Latinos employed in all facets of the media industry, and advocate for media and telecommunications policies that benefit the Latino community.