

## **Arizona immigration law wrong there and in SC**

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The American Civil Liberties Union and a coalition of civil rights groups have filed a class-action lawsuit in U.S. District Court challenging Arizona's new law requiring police to demand "papers" from people they stop whom they suspect are not authorized to be in the U.S. The law flies in the face of the America's values of fairness and equality.

Responsible reforms to U.S. immigration policy must -- as our Constitution guarantees -- protect the civil rights and liberties of every person in the United States, regardless of his or her immigration status.

It is not only civil liberties advocates who oppose Arizona's immigration law and copycat measures. Law enforcement groups around the U.S. -- including in South Carolina -- oppose discriminatory laws that divert resources from the important task of protecting public safety and imperil cooperation between the police and the immigrant community. The business community in Arizona and elsewhere in the U.S. is rightly worried about the impact of such laws on potential visitors, customers and investors.

We hope that wiser heads will prevail and keep similar legislation from passing in our state.

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