



American GI Forum of California

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Dr. Hector P. García,
Founder

April 23, 2010

The Honorable Jan Brewer
Governor of Arizona
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Governor Brewer

RE: SB1070

It is a sad day in this country when a bill is being considered in your state that will undermine the Fourth Amendment rights of our citizens. The result of SB 1070 will have authorities stopping and questioning any citizen because he looks Latino.

The rationalizations offered by the supporters of this bill thinly veil a system that is ultimately a racial profiling tool. These Gestapo like tactics will affect veterans along with countless other innocent citizens. There are many veterans that live in the state of Arizona who happen to be Latino. This bill will subject them and any Latino traveling through the state to unreasonable and unlawful detainment in direct violation of the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution. Furthermore it would trigger an inordinate number of lawsuits and burden the courts all the way to the Supreme Court.

The history and founding of the American GI Forum of the United States saw just such activities during the late 1940s when a returning WWII soldier, killed in action in the Philippines, was denied burial in Three Rivers, Texas, simply because he was Latino. Private Felix Longoria, ultimately buried at Arlington National Cemetery, stands today as a testament to a long history of racism in Texas and to the complicity of local government in denying a citizen his civil rights.

I, as a veteran and as a staunch supporter of the U.S. Constitution and the American GI Forum and all of its veterans throughout the United States, who served their country honorably to protect the freedom of **all its citizens**, implore you to veto this disingenuous piece of legislation.

Willie Galvan

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