



New documents on political and social issues

May 2010

IMMIGRATION

BEYOND ARIZONA

Center for American Progress, May 14, 2010

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/05/pdf/beyond_arizona.pdf

The implications of Arizona's S.B.1070 are startling. Racial profiling of suspects will increase and legal residents could face detention if they are stopped by a police officer and do not have in hand valid identification such as their birth certificates or passports. It is the most severe immigration enforcement law enacted by any state since 1994, when California voters approved Proposition 187, a measure that proposed denying education, nonemergency health care, and other public services to undocumented immigrants. A federal court subsequently ruled the proposition was unconstitutional because it trampled on the federal government's exclusive jurisdiction over immigration matters. Similar serious legal questions are being raised over Arizona's attempt to criminalize illegal presence in the state given the federal government's control over immigration law and policy.

CHINESE IMMIGRANTS IN THE UNITED STATES

Migration Policy Institute, May 2010

<http://www.migrationinformation.org/USfocus/display.cfm?id=781>

The United States is home to about 1.6 million Chinese immigrants (including those born in Hong Kong), making them the fourth-largest immigrant group in the United States after Mexican, Filipino, and Indian immigrants.

NEW ARIZONA LAW ENGULFS IMMIGRATION DEBATE

Migration Policy Institute, May 17, 2010

<http://www.migrationinformation.org/USfocus/display.cfm?id=782>

A controversial new law in Arizona granting broad authority to state and local law enforcement agents to target unauthorized immigrants has focused national and international attention on the larger immigration debate in an unprecedented way.

STATE EFFORTS TO DETER UNAUTHORIZED ALIENS: LEGAL ANALYSIS OF ARIZONA'S S.B. 1070

Congressional Research Service, May 3rd, 2010

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/142360.pdf>

On April 23, 2010, Arizona enacted S.B. 1070, which is designed to discourage and deter the entry or presence of aliens who lack lawful status under federal immigration law. Potentially sweeping in effect, the measure requires state and local law enforcement officials to facilitate the detection of unauthorized aliens in their daily enforcement activities. The measure also establishes criminal penalties under state law, in addition to those already imposed under federal law, for alien smuggling offenses and failure to carry or complete alien registration documents. Further, it makes it a crime under Arizona law for an unauthorized alien to apply for or perform work in the state, either as an employee or an independent contractor.

UNAUTHORIZED ALIENS IN THE UNITED STATES

Congressional Research Service, April 27, 2010

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/141570.pdf>

The unauthorized alien (illegal alien) population in the United States is a key and controversial immigration issue. In recent years, competing views on how to address this population have proved to be a major obstacle to enacting comprehensive immigration reform legislation. The unauthorized alien issue is likely to be a key challenge if, as the Senate Majority Leader and the Speaker of the House have indicated, the 111th Congress takes up immigration reform legislation this year.

U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICY ON PERMANENT ADMISSIONS

Congressional Research Service, April 1st, 2010

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/141589.pdf>

Four major principles underlie current U.S. policy on permanent immigration: the reunification of families, the admission of immigrants with needed skills, the protection of refugees, and the diversity of admissions by country of origin. These principles are embodied in the *Immigration and Nationality Act* (INA). The INA specifies a complex set of numerical limits and preference categories that give priorities for permanent

WILL ARIZONA BE AMERICA'S FUTURE?

Brookings Institution, April 28, 2010

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/0428_arizona_frey.aspx#

As the controversy surrounding Arizona's new immigration legislation continues. The author identifies a "cultural generation gap" in relation to largely white baby boomers and older citizens that may be fueling anti-immigrant sentiment in the state. He explores this trend and provides perspective on what it may mean for the rest of the United States.

EDUCATION

THE CONDITION OF EDUCATION 2010

National Center for Education Statistics, May 2010

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2010/2010028.pdf>

This year's report presents 49 indicators of important developments and trends in U.S. education. These indicators focus on participation and persistence in education, student performance and other measures of achievement, the environment for learning, and resources for education.

HELPING HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS IMPROVE THEIR PROSPECTS

Princeton University and Brookings Institution, April 27, 2010

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2010/0427_helping_dropout_haskins/0427_helping_dropout_haskins.pdf

Dropping out of high school has serious long-term consequences not only for individuals but also for society. According to expert estimates, between 3.5 million and 6 million young Americans between the ages of 16 and 24 are school dropouts. Lowering the number of adolescents who fail to finish high school and helping those who drop out get back on track must be a major policy goal for our nation. The policy brief focuses primarily on how best to provide youngsters who have dropped out of school a second chance.

LANGUAGE USE IN THE UNITED STATES: 2007

U.S. Census Bureau, April 2010

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2010pubs/acs-12.pdf>

The number of people 5 and older who spoke a language other than English at home has more than doubled in the last three decades and at a pace four times greater than the nation's population growth, according to a new U.S. Census Bureau report analyzing data from the 2007 American Community Survey and over a time period from 1980 – 2007. In that time frame, the percentage of speakers of non-English languages grew by 140 percent while the nation's overall population grew by 34 percent.

THE NEA 2010 ALMANAC OF HIGHER EDUCATION

National Education Association, April 2010

<http://www.nea.org/home/38294.htm#>

The Almanac analyzes the impact of the economic downturn on our colleges and universities. Economists may believe that the Great Recession is over, but the employment outlook remains bleak despite some moderation brought about by federal stimulus funds. Despite the gloomy economic outlook, Suzanne B. Clery and Barry L. Christopher report some salary increases for full-time faculty on 9/10-month contracts. But wage gaps continue to increase by rank, gender, control, and discipline. The data has yet to show the impact of furlough policies adopted in many states.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND?

RAND Corporation, April 26, 2010

http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/2010/RAND_RB9517.pdf

Studies suggest that the *No Child Left Behind Act's* goal of 100 percent of U.S. students proficient in reading and mathematics by 2014 will not be met. Broad implementation guidelines have resulted in a different accountability system in every state, says the report.

ECONOMIC REPORTS

FACING THE URBAN CHALLENGE: REIMAGINING LAND USE IN AMERICA'S DISTRESSED OLDER CITIES—THE FEDERAL POLICY ROLE

Brookings Institution, May 17, 2010

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2010/0518_shrinking_cities_mallach/0518_shrinking_cities_mallach.pdf

The end of World War II heralded an era of urban disinvestment in the United States. Suburban flight, deindustrialization and automobile-oriented sprawl triggered massive population and job loss in the cities that had driven America's economic growth for the preceding century. While some cities began to rebound in the 1990s, others, including great cities like Detroit and Cleveland, have continued to decline.

FOUNDATION GROWTH AND GIVING ESTIMATES

Foundation Center, April 16, 2010

<http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/pdf/fgge10.pdf>

The recent economic crisis caused the nation's more than 75,000 grant making foundations to cut their 2009 giving by an estimated 8.4 percent—by far the largest decline ever tracked by the Foundation Center. Grant dollars fell from \$46.8 billion to \$42.9 billion. Yet according to the report, this cutback totaled less than half the 17 percent loss in foundation assets recorded in the prior year.

THE POLARIZATION OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE U.S. LABOR MARKET

Center for American Progress, April 30, 2010

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/04/pdf/job_polarization.pdf

Between December 2007, when the U.S. housing and financial crises became the subject of daily news headlines, and March of 2010, the latest period for which data are available, the number of employed workers in the United States fell by 8.2 million, to 129.8 million from 138.0 million. In the same interval, the civilian unemployment rate nearly doubled, to 9.7 percent from 5.0 percent, while the employment-to-population ratio dropped to 58.6 percent from 62.7 percent—the lowest level seen in more than 25 years. Job losses of this magnitude cause enormous harm to workers, families, and communities.

A PROFILE OF THE WORKING POOR, 2008

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, March 2010

<http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpswp2008.pdf>

In 2008, according to the Census Bureau, 39.8 million people, or 13.2 percent of the Nation's population, lived at or below the official poverty level.

The poor consisted primarily of adults who had not participated in the labor force during the year, but also included children. In 2008, about 8.9 million adults were among the "working poor," 1.4 million more than in 2007. The working poor are individuals who spent at least 27 weeks in the labor force (working or looking for work), but whose incomes still fell below the official poverty level. In 2008, the working-poor rate—the ratio of the working poor to all individuals in the labor force for at least 27 weeks—was 6.0 percent, up by 0.9 percentage point from the previous year's figure.

THE STATE OF SOCIETY: MEASURING ECONOMIC SUCCESS AND HUMAN WELL-BEING

Urban Institute, May 28, 2010

<http://www.urban.org/uploadedpdf/412101-state-of-society.pdf>

This study provides an overview of a broad range of existing measures that go beyond gross domestic product (GDP) to offer a more complete and accurate picture of how a society and its economy are faring. Based on a review of the literature and an analysis of major arguments and rationales for moving beyond GDP as a measure of national well-being, this report identifies 14 categories of national well-being. It synthesizes hundreds of indicators found in 28 reports that present alternative indices and systems of well-being into 79 indicators organized under these categories.

VOTING AND REGISTRATION IN THE ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 2008

U.S. Census Bureau, May 2010

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2010pubs/p20-562.pdf>

This report examines levels of voting and registration in the November 2008 presidential election, the characteristics of citizens who reported either registering or voting in the election, and the reasons why some registered individuals did not vote.

All previous web alerts can be found at:
<http://france.usembassy.gov/web-alert.html>