

Supreme Court on SB1070 Ruling

Written by Mike Honda
Monday, 25 June 2012 14:50

I applaud the Supreme Court's ruling to strike down three of the four key provisions of Arizona's misguided anti-immigrant enforcement bill (SB 1070), on federal preemption grounds.

However, I am extremely disheartened and disappointed by the Court's ruling to essentially uphold the highly discriminatory and dangerous "show me your papers" provision—thus keeping open the floodgates for legally-sanctioned racial profiling.

When implemented, Arizonans who look or sound "foreign," even if they are in fact citizens or legal residents, could be asked for their papers at any given moment—and punished for failing to produce them. As someone who was placed in Japanese internment camps during World War II, I know all too well the effects of scapegoating and racial profiling. Racial profiling is humiliating and degrading, and it tears at the social and moral fabric of families, communities, and America as a whole. Such immigration enforcement powers place all minorities under constant suspicion, relegating them to second-class citizens.

However, I remain hopeful that the Supreme Court has left the door open for the provision to be challenged upon implementation—wherein, this is not the final word on the "show me your papers" provision. Going forward, I urge the U.S. Department of Justice to remain vigilant in championing civil rights enforcement.

Passage and implementation of patchwork immigration state laws does not solve our broken immigration system; instead, such laws exacerbate the problem. That's why, as the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Chair Emeritus and Immigration Task Force Chair, I will continue to fight for comprehensive and inclusive immigration reform—allowing for family reunification and protection for all families and individuals, including same sex partners, and protecting the rights of our most vulnerable communities.