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NDLON Reaction to DeMint/Vitter Effort to Block DOJ Lawsuit

(Los Angeles) Today, Senators Jim DeMint and David Vitter introduced an amendment to block the Department of Justice from suing Arizona over SB 1070. The stated intention of the measure is to: "prohibit the funding of any suit by the Department of Justice seeking to invalidate the Arizona immigrant registration law."

The following is a statement by Chris Newman, Legal Director for the National Day Laborer Organizing Network, in reaction to the announcement:

"These Senators joined the losing side of history today with the introduction of this preposterous amendment. Like Joe Arpaio, Jan Brewer, and other politicians who scapegoat immigrants simply to make headlines, Senators DeMint and Vitter have now defined themselves as members of this generation's nullification movement. The Vitter/DeMint amendment is yet another example of the lengths demagogue politicians will go to use the issue of immigration for political posturing.

Moreover, the argument that SB 1070 is designed to enhance border security is simply rubbish. Immigrants are not drug mules, as Governor Brewer suggests. The plain truth is that SB 1070 is not only unconstitutional, it makes Arizona—and the country—less safe.

Thankfully, the federal courts will have the last word on the legality of SB 1070. And hopefully Congress will someday move beyond the vituperative politics of fear in order to bring our immigration policy in line with our constitutional values."

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