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Date: August 3, 2010

NDLON Reaction to GOP efforts to amend Constitution: "What part of Unconstitutional don't you understand?"

(Los Angeles, CA) As the national debate on immigration reform enters a new stage following the federal court injunction of Arizona's SB1070, the nativist movement has proffered a new argument to radically alter the United States Constitution. In recent days, national GOP leaders have called for a review of the 14th Amendment and its clear definition of US Citizenship. Dan Stein, President of FAIR, stated the 14th Amendment should not "enslave our thinking" in modern times.

The following is a statement of Chris Newman, Legal Director and General Counsel for the National Day Laborer Organizing Network:

"For years, the unchecked obsession by some with the undocumented status of our generation's Americans in Waiting has impeded progress on efforts to modernize immigration laws. It has always been ironic that the term "illegal alien" has been used as a justification to violate labor laws, denude civil rights protections, and undermine this country's proud heritage as a nation of immigrants. But the recent nativist attack on the 14th Amendment is beyond the pale, and it unmasks a more sinister agenda of those who are uncomfortable with changing racial and ethnic demographics. Those who wish to tamper with the 14th Amendment will join the ranks of others in history who have disgraced themselves by resisting progress. Undocumented immigrants, in their struggle for citizenship and political equality like generations before them, will defend the United States Constitution from a full-scale assault by the nativist movement. And in the process, they will defend constitutional values and advance the national interest. The immigrant rights movement can take comfort that it will be on the winning side of history.

And as for Mr. Stein's bizarre choice of words in describing the 14th Amendment, we are calling upon him for an immediate clarification and eagerly await his reply."

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