



The Grassroots Gazette fosters community dialogue and participation throughout Southwest Wisconsin.

ARIZONA-LIKE IMMIGRATION LAW IS INTRODUCED IN WISCONSIN

State Rep. Donald Pridemore (R-Hartford) has introduced a controversial Arizona-like bill (AB 173) which has been assigned to the Homeland Security and State Affairs committee.

If passed, the Pridemore bill would require local Wisconsin law enforcement to ask "suspicious" people stopped for civil or criminal violations (even a broken tail light) for proof of citizenship or legal immigration status. Suspects without appropriate documentation can be held for 48 hours and then must be turned over to Immigration authorities. A number of business, farm and religious groups oppose this legislation. Opponents fear such a law would lead to racial profiling against people of color and immigrants, regardless of their status. It could cost cash-strapped cities and towns scarce resources to enforce. Other states have spent millions trying to defend the constitutionality of such laws, and Arizona has lost hundreds of millions in tourist dollars, lost wages and taxes as a result of mass boycotts.

SO WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?

- 1) Become informed by checking out the Grassroots website:

<http://www.grassrootswi.org/immigration/>

Among the facts you'll find there: Immigrant workers make up more than 40 percent of Wisconsin dairy workers. Immigrants spend some \$14.9 million per year in the state and pay \$8.7 million in state taxes.

- 2) Write a letter to the editor. Send it to several local papers as well as the Madison and Milwaukee papers. For letter writing tips and a list of email addresses for local newspapers, click here: <http://www.grassrootswi.org/media/>

- 3) Contact Governor Walker and Rep. Howard Marklein (R-51st district) or your own state rep. to let them know your views. You'll find contact info on the Grassroots website: <http://www.grassrootswi.org/legislators/>

- 4) Let us know how you feel about this legislation on the Grassroots "[FACEBOOK](#)" page. See link below.

GRASSROOTS IS NOW ON FACEBOOK

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Grassroots-Citizens-of-wisconsin/174246405925559?sk=wall>

GRASSROOTS CITIZENS OF WISCONSIN, an energetic group of over 1000 people in Iowa, Sauk, Crawford, Richland, Lafayette and Grant Counties who are interested in taking an active role in improving government and promoting rational discussions of local, state and national issues. For further information, or to add a friend to our mailing list, please contact: Shirley Barnes, Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin, 2473 Mt. Hope Road, Dodgeville, WI. 53533, 608-623-2109, e-mail: grassroots@merr.com.

To remove your name from our e-mail list, please click on "Reply" and write "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.