

THE ARIZONA ACCORD



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IMMIGRATION REFORM PRINCIPLES FOUND IN THE ARIZONA ACCORD ENDORSED BY BUSINESS, FAITH AND CIVIC GROUPS

Public Urged to Lend Their Support by Signing the Arizona Accord

Endorsed by a broad range of business, faith-based and civic groups, the Arizona Accord, with its five principles on immigration reform, was unveiled today in a signing ceremony held in the historic Arizona State Capitol in Phoenix.

According to supporters, the Arizona Accord provides a broad set of guiding principles on issues related to immigration which can act as a foundation in all efforts – government and private – to find solutions to the complicated questions surrounding the federal immigration system.

The five principles found in the Arizona Accord deal with finding federal solutions; respecting and supporting an appropriate role for law enforcement; recognizing the importance of protecting families in order to sustain our communities; supporting a free-market economy that acknowledges the contribution immigrants bring to our nation’s workforce and embracing the culture of inclusion by welcoming people of goodwill to our state and country.

“The Arizona Accord is designed to help frame the discussion at both the state and federal levels of government as legislators and policy makers work to find a balanced approach to our state’s and country’s immigration needs,” said Scott Higginson, who organized the effort to bring the Arizona Accord forward. “What we need is to engage in a more civil and effective dialogue when confronting matters of immigration and our broken federal system.”

Business groups who have endorsed the Arizona Accord include: Greater Phoenix Leadership (GPL), Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC), the Arizona and Tucson Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, Arizona Employers for Immigration Reform and the Arizona Farm Bureau.

“The words we use reflect the attitudes we hold and convey,” said Kevin Rogers, President of the Arizona Farm Bureau. “The Arizona Accord uses words which set high standards for practical and just solutions to meaningful immigration reform.”

“Everyone needs to understand the Accord isn’t a law and it isn’t intended to become one,” said Richard Usher, Board member and co-founder of Arizona Employers for Immigration

Reform. “These are simple and straightforward principles those involved in solving the immigration problem can follow as they create and implement sensible solutions. We’ve seen the problems doing it the wrong way creates and our hope is that following these five principles allows us to quickly and effectively address the immigration problem in ways that secures the border while facilitating and promoting legal economic growth.”

Local municipalities are also getting behind the Arizona Accord with supporting endorsements given by the City of Tolleson; the City of Mesa Human Relations Advisory Board and the City of Phoenix Human Relations Commission.

“Much of the credit behind the birth of the Arizona Accord and especially the support thus far of several cities goes to the efforts of the East Valley Patriots, a group of dedicated citizens who organized themselves and worked tirelessly to bring these principles forward in numerous public settings,” Higginson said.

According to one sponsoring organization the principles of the Arizona Accord are based in the humanity expressed in our country’s culture.

“All men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with Certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,” added Edmundo Hidalgo, President and CEO of Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC). “That phrase taken from the Declaration of Independence embodies the spirit behind the Arizona Accord. I’m proud to say that CPLC and our board of directors unanimously endorse the Arizona Accord.”

Along with CPLC other civic and faith-based groups signing the Arizona Accord include: The Real Arizona Coalition, Arizona Interfaith Network, One Arizona Interfaith Leaders, and Promise Arizona.

“We hope the citizens of Arizona will join us in expressing their support for these principles by going to our website and signing the Arizona Accord for themselves,” Higginson concluded. “If we can get thousands of citizens to join us, perhaps we can change the level of acrimony within the public discourse that has made it nearly impossible for a realistic approach and holistic solutions to be found.”

The Arizona Accord website can be found at: www.azaccord.com

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