



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

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Arizona Immigration Law before U.S. Supreme Court

Bruning Defends State's Right to Enforce Federal Immigration Laws

Lincoln – Attorney General Jon Bruning today released the following statement on the U.S. Supreme Court oral arguments regarding Arizona's immigration law. In July 2010, Nebraska and nine other states filed an amicus brief in support of Arizona defending states' authority to enforce federal immigration laws.

"Once again, the States are being forced to defend our authority, including the power to protect our resources and our people," said Bruning. "There must be an end to the federal government's constant attack on state sovereignty."

Arizona's supporters argue state enforcement of immigration laws will help, not hinder federal enforcement. In the 2010 amicus, the states noted, "police powers of a state include the authority to arrest for federal crimes, a prerogative derived from the state's own sovereign authority. Consistent with the principle of dual sovereignty, the states may exercise this power to direct the police to arrest persons who violate federal immigration laws."

Arizona's law, SB 1070, expanded the powers of state police officers to ask about the immigration status of those suspected of violating other laws and to hold those suspected of being illegal immigrants.

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