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Dromm Rebukes Arizona Law
and Demands Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Jackson Heights, NY, April 30, 2010 -- City Council Member and Chair of the Immigration Committee, Daniel Dromm, gathered on the steps of City Hall with Speaker Christine Quinn, Comptroller John Liu, Council Members, The New York Immigration Coalition and other leaders to denounce Arizona's immigration law SB 1070. The law would allow law enforcement officials to stop and question anyone they suspect may be undocumented, and make undocumented status a crime.

"These types of draconian measures against our immigrant population are totally unacceptable. In my opinion, it is because we do not have comprehensive immigration reform in our country that a measure like this could even pass in the first place," said Dromm (D-Jackson Heights). "It is our duty and our obligation as people, and as citizens of the United States of America to ensure that everyone's rights are respected and that everyone is protected under the law."

In addition, the Arizona law would open the door to racial and ethnic profiling.

"What this law is essentially going to do is create racial profiling. I don't know how you can determine reasonable suspicion of an immigrant in this country. When that law is implemented police are going to use racial profiling to enforce that law and that is wrong," affirmed the Chair of the Immigration Committee. "I was a public school social studies teacher for many years and what I taught my students is that immigrants made our country strong. We stand opposed and we will fight back so that nothing like this ever happens in New York City."

Council Member Dromm also announced the passing of a City Council resolution which calls for Congress and President Obama to come up with a comprehensive immigration reform bill and sign it into law.

"I support this resolution because it is critical that we bring attention to the need for reform in our national immigration policy. The lack of a sensible and comprehensive immigration policy on the federal level has served to embolden radical approaches such as the Arizona law, which seeks to legalize discrimination," said Dromm. "What immigrants want is what all New Yorkers want - the right to pursue happiness and freedom in our great land. It doesn't matter where you come from or how you got here. What matters is where we are going together."

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