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P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Arizona's Controversial SB 1070 Law Available in Spanish

PHOENIX – The new Arizona immigration law known as SB 1070 will be enacted on July 29, 2010. While the controversy of this law has even attracted the international Media, the effects of this legislation will have a greater impact on the local Spanish-speaking population, legally in the country or not.

The vast majority of social services agencies, non-profit and religious organizations who serve clients and patients whose first or only language is Spanish, may have a good reason to be concerned about what this law actually means for the population they help and serve. But it may also prove extremely useful for staff.

In spite of abundant information available in the print media and the Internet, literature about SB 1070 in Spanish is extremely limited and in some cases, non-existent. A document translation from the original law in English into Spanish has been made possible by the American Civil Liberties Union of Arizona.

This Spanish translation of the ACLU's analysis section by section of law SB 1070 contributes to the critical need social agencies and community organizations have to make resources in Spanish accessible to their clients and patients, and proves the value Spanish language translations can play in disseminating crucial information generally only available in English.

The Hispanic Institute of Social Issues (HISI), a multimedia publishing Arizona non-profit corporation dedicated to the publication of bilingual Spanish and English materials, was the agency responsible for translating this document into Spanish for the ACLU of Arizona.

"HISI commends the service the ACLU of Arizona has provided to the entire community by making a Spanish translation of SB 1070 available," said Yolie Hernandez. "HISI considers translating this law and the analysis section by section into Spanish a true privilege."

Hernandez, HISI's Production Director, added that the Institute not only provides most of its own information in both English and Spanish, but also encourages other community and social agencies to follow the ALCU of Arizona's example by tapping into the value of Spanish language translations.

"In critical times like the one we are currently experiencing in Arizona, a Spanish translation often proves much less costly than the price of leaving our Spanish-speaking population misinformed."