

SGIM

Society of General Internal Medicine

TO PROMOTE IMPROVED PATIENT CARE, RESEARCH, AND EDUCATION IN PRIMARY CARE AND GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

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May 7, 2010

The Honorable Raul M. Grijalva
US House of Representatives
1440 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

I am writing to you as President of the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) to voice our strong objections to the recent enactment of the Arizona Immigration Act of 2010.

SGIM is an organization of approximately 3000 general internists nationwide who teach medical students and resident physicians, who conduct research on improving healthcare delivery, and who provide care to patients in outpatient and inpatient settings. Our membership includes many leaders in academic medicine and individuals who also play important roles in other professional societies and in their communities.

As physicians committed to ensuring an equitable and compassionate healthcare system, we believe that recently passed Arizona legislation has far-reaching and adverse implications for public health and safety. Equally important, many of our members believe the legislation to be unconstitutional and a fundamental violation of human dignity.

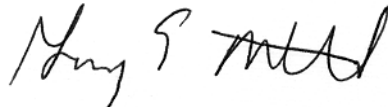
SGIM would be opposed the legislation under any circumstances. However, the legislation has particular salience to our membership because our 2011 Annual Meeting is currently scheduled to be held in Phoenix on May 4-7, 2011. Many of our members believe that it would be unconscionable to hold a meeting in Phoenix and have indicated that they would boycott any event held by our Society in Arizona. Moreover, a larger number of our members have urged our governing council to explore other options.

At present, the SGIM Council is exploring every option we have to register our concerns with this policy, including but not limited to severing our contract with the Sheraton Phoenix Hotel and holding our meeting in a venue outside of Arizona. Moreover, we do not believe that we could ever schedule a future SGIM event in Arizona if this law is not repealed.

We recognize that the issues related to immigration reform are complex and potentially divisive. However, we do not believe that enacting legislation that is antithetical to basic principles of social justice and human dignity should ever be considered as a solution.

Therefore, on behalf of the members of SGIM, the Council and I urge you to do everything in your power to repeal the Arizona Immigration Act of 2010.

Sincerely,



Gary E. Rosenthal, MD
President