



March 3, 2021

Assembly Judiciary Committee
RE: AB157

Dear Chair Yeager and Committee Members:

The Nevada Immigrant Coalition (NIC) supports AB157 which would allow a person to file a civil lawsuit against an individual who files a false police report based on one's race, religion, nationality, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity. This a piece of legislation that would enable the state of Nevada to push against discrimination in all its forms.

In "White Caller Crime: Racialized Police Communication and Existing While Black,"¹ Chan Tov McNamara explains how the practice of police reporting against Black persons who are not engaged in criminal behavior causes physical, psychological, and physiological harms. Mr. McNamara details how racialized police communication mobilizes law enforcement to undermine the ability of Black persons to exist in ways equivalent to their White counterparts because their rights to move around and simply be left alone are violated. It exposes Black people to police violence. It creates anxiety and stress. Any increased interaction with police is associated with trauma and depression. "Even threatening to call the police on Black individuals exposes them to significant risk for a range of serious, negative psychological effects."² Additionally, immigrants face these challenges in ways that are very consequential. Any interactions with law enforcement can lead them to get caught in the jail to deportation pipeline. Black immigrants are more likely to be detained, deported, and prevented from returning than any other race and ethnicity.³ There is a need for action to combat frivolous and malicious complaints to the police. AB157 would enable Nevada to eradicate the practice of racialized police communication.

We ask you to support AB157.

Respectfully Submitted,
/s/ Paloma M. Guerrero
NIC Legislative Committee

¹ Published in the Michigan Journal of Race and Law, available at:
<https://repository.law.umich.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1293&context=mjrl>

² Pg. 367

³ <https://www.ilctr.org/what-does-it-mean-to-be-black-immigrant-united-states/>

The Nevada Immigrant Coalition (NIC) is comprised of the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada, Culinary 226, Make the Road Nevada, Mi Familia Vote, UNLV Immigration Legal Clinic, Planned Parenthood, SEIU 1107, ¡Arriba! Workers Center, UndocuNetwork, ACLU of Nevada, Asian Community Development Council, America Votes, Silver State Voices, Battle Born Progress, Faith in Action Nevada, Camp Anytown, Chispa, ECDC African Community Center, Hispanics in Politics, Immigrant Center for Women and Children, Indivisible Reno Chapter, One APIA Nevada, Boyd Immigrant Rights Coalition, New American Leaders, DSA Las Vegas Chapter, NReal Media, American Immigration Lawyer Association and Las Vegas National Lawyers Guild Chapter.