STATE OF ARIZONA

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GOVERNOR

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May 8, 2007

The Honorable Timothy S. Bee
President
Arizona State Senate
1700 West Washington Street
Senate Office Building
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Senate Bill 1236: consular cards; valid identification; prohibition

Dear President Bee:

Today I vetoed Senate Bill 1236, which would have precluded the state or any political subdivision from accepting as a valid form of identification a consular identification card that is issued by a foreign government.

I did so for many of the same reasons I vetoed Senate Bill 1511 on May 6, 2005. Without the ability to accept a consular ID card, Arizona's law enforcement officers may be unable to confirm the identities of foreign nationals who are stopped for any reason. If a foreign national is pulled over for a traffic violation and presents a consular ID, our law enforcement officers must have the ability to use that ID to determine whether the person is wanted for other crimes. It makes no sense to hamstring our law enforcement agencies' efforts to know the criminal histories of foreign nationals they encounter.

And, as I stated in 2005, if foreign nationals are unable to use consular identification cards, they will be more likely to try to obtain forged documents that are accepted by state government, including social security cards or other documents that are accepted for the purpose of gaining access to state and local public benefits. The state is better served by having foreign nationals use identification that accurately identifies them as foreign nationals.

For these and other reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 1236.

Yours very truly,

Janet Napolitano
Governor

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cc: The Honorable Jim Weiers
The Honorable Chuck Gray