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**MAJORITY OF ARIZONANS THINK IMMIGRATION IS BAD FOR U.S.;
BORDER ENFORCEMENT IS NUMBER ONE PRIORITY;
STATE DIVIDED OVER BUSH'S GUEST WORKER PLAN**

A majority of Arizonans think immigration in recent years has been bad for the United States, according to the findings of a recent telephone survey. More than half prefer limiting the flow of immigrants to the U.S. and enforcement of existing laws is a top priority among Arizonans for addressing undocumented immigration in Arizona. Most people support increased money for border enforcement and enforcement of laws that prohibit the hiring of undocumented immigrants. However, Arizonans are divided on many immigration issues. One-third of Arizonans support spending money on integrating new immigrants into society and half would like to see increased spending on legal services for immigrants wishing to apply for legal residency status. Half, also, support President Bush's guest worker policy that would allow some illegal immigrants to legally stay in the country as long as they hold jobs that no U.S. citizen wants.

The *Grand Canyon State Poll* was conducted by the Social Research Laboratory at Northern Arizona University. Calling took place between March 23 and March 26, 2005. A total of 423 randomly-selected Arizonans participated in the survey and results are accurate within a +/-4.8 percent margin of error, at a 95 percent confidence level.

ARIZONANS CRITICAL OF IMMIGRATION IMPACT

Immigration is one of the most important issues on the policy agenda today. The issue is of particular interest in Arizona where an organization called "The Minutemen" has assembled

along the border with Mexico to prevent illegal immigrants from entering into the country. The recent Social Research Laboratory telephone survey explores attitudes of Arizonans on this important issue.

Overall, Arizonans hold a complex and often conflicted set of attitudes about immigration. A majority of Arizonans (53%) think immigration of people to the United States in recent years has been bad for the country. At the same time, almost one-quarter of Arizonans (24%) say immigration has been good for the country. When asked to choose between spending money on limiting the flow of immigrants into the U.S. or integrating new immigrants into U.S. culture, 57 percent prefer limiting the flow of immigrants. One-third (34 percent) would like to see more money spent on integrating new immigrants into the U.S. by helping them adjust to our culture and society.

Kristi Hagen, director of the study, commented, “Immigration is a hot button issue in the state. Many anti-immigration policy options are being debated in the Arizona state legislature today. This study shows that Arizonans support many approaches to the issue of immigration. Although a slight majority prefer to limit immigration, a sizable portion of the population prefer policies that integrate immigrants into society. Clearly, the public is not monolithic on this issue.”

POLICY PREFERENCES

Seven policy options for handling undocumented immigration were listed and respondents were asked if Arizona should spend more or less money on each policy. Two policies rise to the top with the highest levels of support for increased funding. Both options involve enforcing current laws; Eighty-four percent of respondents support increased funding for border enforcement in Arizona. In addition, 70 percent support more funding for enforcing laws that prohibit the hiring of undocumented immigrants.

Sixty-one percent of Arizonans support more money for deporting undocumented immigrants back to their home countries.

At the same time, there is significant support in Arizona for helping undocumented workers make a better life for themselves in the U.S. More than half of Arizonans (51%) support increasing funding for legal services for immigrants wishing to apply for legal residency status.

Arizonans are also divided over whether funding should be increased for English language instruction for undocumented immigrants (46% support increased funding, 48% say less money should be spent on this program). More than a third of Arizonans (38%) support more money for programs to place undocumented immigrants in jobs where workers are needed.

The issue of whether funding should be increased or decreased for providing social services to undocumented workers carries special weight in Arizona as Proposition 200, which denies some social services to undocumented immigrants, was recently supported by Arizona voters. In the recent *Grand Canyon State Poll*, seventy-three percent say they support less funding of social services for undocumented immigrants. Only 19 percent of Arizonans support more funding of social services for this population.

SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT BUSH'S JOB AMNESTY PROGRAM

President Bush has proposed a plan that would allow some illegal immigrants currently in the U.S. to legally stay in the country for several years as long as they hold jobs that no U.S. citizen wants. Immigrant workers would be required to return to their home countries after their time under this program has expired.

A slight majority of Arizonans (52%) support President Bush's job amnesty program. Arizona is divided on this issue, however, as 45 percent say they oppose the program. Four percent of Arizonans say they do not have a position on this issue.

According to Dr. Nancy Wonders, Professor of Criminal Justice at Northern Arizona University and a consultant on this project, "Many people recognize that criminalizing immigration is a costly strategy for the nation. Despite more border guards, immigration continues to rise. There is much to be gained by considering the experiences of other countries tackling immigration issues. For example, Spain is currently regularizing labor immigration. It is clear that many Arizonans think a similar approach is worth considering in the U.S."



Social Research Laboratory, Northern Arizona University

April 4, 2005

**GRAND CANYON STATE POLL – IMMIGRATION ISSUES
BACKGROUND MEMO**

Spring 2005

The *Grand Canyon State Poll* was conducted between March 23 and March 26, 2005. A random sample of 423 adult residents of Arizona was asked questions regarding immigration issues. Survey question results are subject to a sampling error of +/-4.8 percent at a 95 percent confidence level. Sampling error is the probable difference in results between interviewing everyone in the population versus a scientific sample taken from the population. Sampling error does not take into account additional sources of error inherent in any study of public opinion. The data referred to in this release are presented below.

Overall, do you think immigration of people from other countries to the United States in recent years has been good or bad for the country, or hasn't it made much of a difference?

	Good	Bad	Not Much Difference	Don't Know	Total
Total	24%	53%	14%	9%	100%

Which of the following two statements comes closest to your own views? [statement order presentation was randomized]

(Statement One) *The federal government should spend more money on limiting the flow of immigrants into the U.S.*

(Statement Two) *The federal government should spend more money on integrating new immigrants into the U.S by helping them adjust to our culture and society?*

	Limit Flow	Integrate Immigrants	Both/Depends/ Don't know
Total	57%	34%	9%

Now, I am going to read a list of activities that different people think may address undocumented immigration in Arizona. Please tell me whether Arizona should spend more money or less money on each of these activities in the future: [activities were presented in random order]

	More Money	Less Money	Depends /Mixed	Don't Know
Arizona border enforcement	84%	10%	3%	3%
Enforcing laws that prohibit hiring of undocumented immigrants	70%	23%	3%	5%
Deporting undocumented immigrants back to their home countries	61%	32%	3%	5%
Legal services for immigrants wishing to apply for legal residency status	51%	40%	4%	5%
English language instruction for undocumented immigrants	46%	48%	2%	3%
Programs to place undocumented immigrants in jobs where workers are needed	38%	55%	4%	3%
Social services for undocumented immigrants	19%	73%	3%	5%

As you may know, President Bush has proposed a plan that would allow some illegal immigrants currently in the U.S. to legally stay in this country for several years as long as they hold jobs that no U.S. citizen wants. The plan would require these immigrant workers to return to their countries after their time under this program had expired. Do you support or oppose this plan?

	Support	Oppose	Don't Know
Total	52%	45%	4%