

WASHINGTON—U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor, D-Ariz., issued the following statement today in reaction to the announcement that the Department of Justice has filed a lawsuit against Arizona charging that S.B. 1070, the state's new immigration law, is unconstitutional, and seeking a preliminary injunction to block it from taking effect.

“From the moment that S.B. 1070 was signed into law by Governor Jan Brewer, I have called for the federal government to pursue a lawsuit to permanently enjoin the enforcement of this divisive and harmful legislation,” Pastor said. “Therefore, I am pleased with the Department of Justice’s decision to take action by filing a lawsuit in federal court in order to prevent the law’s implementation.

“Under the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution, the federal government has the exclusive authority to set immigration policy and enforce immigration law. As the lawsuit will argue, the State of Arizona is constitutionally preempted from enacting its own immigration policy. Furthermore, by creating an unprecedented, independent state immigration policy, S.B. 1070 would seriously interfere with federal immigration enforcement by diverting critical law enforcement resources from the most serious threats to public safety and could lead to the creation of a patchwork of inconsistent state and local immigration schemes. For these reasons, the implementation of S.B. 1070 would cause irreparable harm to Arizona, our people, and our nation.

“Therefore, I am encouraged by today’s announcement and remain hopeful that this lawsuit will result in a permanent injunction that will prevent S.B. 1070 from ever taking effect,” Pastor concluded.