

**International Association for the Study of Popular Music
U.S. Branch
Board Resolution on State of Arizona Anti-Ethnic Studies Law
HB 2281**

Whereas the membership of the U.S. Branch of the International Association for the Study of Popular Music (IASPM-U.S.) represents nearly XXX academics in the field of popular culture throughout the United States, including many in the State of Arizona;

Whereas the membership of IASPM-U.S. recognizes the centrality of popular music to notions of personal and collective identity, geographic identity, and political affiliation, among other areas of cultural exchange and affirmation;

Whereas the IASPM-U.S. has a tradition of vigorous support for the principles of academic freedom that help to ensure that those with specific knowledge and expertise can guide curriculum development at all levels of education;

Whereas ethnic studies K-12 curricula draw upon research and scholarship from established fields of the study of popular music such as musicology, ethnomusicology, sociology, cultural anthropology, literary studies, cultural studies, American studies, and other areas of ethnic studies, as well as from the knowledge developed in interdisciplinary ethnic studies departments in the nation's foremost universities and colleges;

Whereas the aim of teaching and learning in ethnic studies is to expose students to the rich array of experiences and the complex interrelations among individuals and groups that has a long history of scholarship that includes the development of individual, ethnic and national identities so that students have a deeper, more accurate, and more comprehensive understanding of American society and its history and culture;

Whereas ethnic studies is an enriching aspect of the American educational experience of most public and private school students throughout the United States and is an area of scholarship and doctoral preparation at our leading universities;

Whereas HB 2281 has begun to persecute teachers such as Curtis Acosta and school administrators such as those in Tucson, Arizona solely on the basis of presenting material in their classrooms that comes from Latina/o Studies, a recognized body of scholarship that has produced an extensive and useful body of knowledge, while leaving similar programs for African American, Asian and American Indian students untouched;

Whereas our Association's members, as well as those of other scholarly societies, have a growing concern that similar legislation could outlaw or significantly limit the teaching of ethnic studies courses and programs at Arizona's outstanding public colleges and universities;

Whereas it will be a great disservice to the youth of Arizona to be deprived of access to this rich body of important knowledge that has contributed to the well-being of the United States, a nation that is envied across the democratic world for its successful diversity;

Therefore be it resolved that the officers of the U.S. Branch of the International Association for the Study of Popular Music issue this public condemnation of the legislature of Arizona and Governor Jan Brewer for enacting HB 2281 and calls for its repeal.

Be it further resolved that the officers of the U.S. Branch of the International Association for the Study of Popular Music calls on the people of Arizona to condemn all vitriolic rhetoric coming from throughout the political spectrum and recognize that the United State is, and has always been, a country composed of people from many different backgrounds whose diverse experiences, cultures, and political viewpoints have contributed to the nation's dynamism and progress.