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Ms. Old Lady

Journalism

August 1, 2020

Obama Opposes the Alabama Immigration Law

The Associated Press. "Justice Dept. Challenges Alabama Immigration Law." *The New York Times* 01 Aug. 2011: A16. *www.nytimes.com*. Web. 05 Aug. 2011.

The Alabama immigration law that will come into effect on September 1, 2011 states that police officers can detain anyone they suspect of being an illegal alien, schools must report on every students’ immigration status, and employers must verify immigration status of their employees through a website. Obama’s administration says that this law violates the federal one and allows police officers to push for the arrest and imprisonment of any person illegally in the country. The Justice Department says that states cannot create laws that ignore the federal ones already in place.

I believe that this law will lead to racial discrimination and that the Justice Department is right. The fact is that Alabama has a history of racial profiling. This law just allows them to continue and glorify the practice. The more people the state detains, the more money it gets from the US government because the government pays a stipend for each day an illegal immigrant sits in a cell. States should have rights, but those rights must be checked against US policy.

This law would impact the nation because it would set precedence that racial profiling is acceptable. Georgia already has passed a similar law, as has Arizona. If more states follow, our country will be even more racist than it already is.