



**Clarksville Branch NAACP #5582**  
**Post Office Box 581**  
**Clarksville, TN 37041**

Governor Phil Bredesen  
Governor's Office  
Tennessee State Capitol  
Nashville, TN 37243-0001

RE: Veto of SB1141/HB670.

Dear Governor Bredesen;

The leaders and membership of the Clarksville Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People strongly support your vetoing SB1141/HB670. We submit this letter hoping you will be prudent in your decision to ensure there is equal representation under the law for ALL individuals who reside in the great state of Tennessee.

The piece of legislation, that was recently passed by the majority party of the TN Senate and the State House targets immigrants, refugees, and others individuals with limited English-proficiency. Particularly alarming in SB1141/HB670, is the requirement of every jailer in the state to inspect the immigration documentation of every person arrested, with no federal training, funding, or oversight.

Unlike other programs enacted by state law, which operate on the basis of citizenship, SB1141 requires local jailers to make determinations of immigration status, which is notoriously complex and ever-changing. The law, as written, and presented to you for signature will result in jailers interrogating individuals simply based on appearance and language ability. If approved this will be a dangerous time for communities of color regardless of race or ethnicity.

Arizona's recent anti-immigrant legislation has created a national climate that further criminalizes hardworking community members and sanctions the unequal treatment of anyone who looks or sounds foreign-born. Such action would set our state back 30 years by allowing racial/ethnic profiling, as was exercised in this state prior to 1980s, to become law in the state of Tennessee. Allowing the legal reinstatement of racial profiling for law enforcers of Tennessee would be unjust as well as immoral.

We join with the Tennessee State Conference of the NAACP in strongly supporting the veto of this unjust and immoral piece of legislation.

I am in the struggle.

*Jimmie M. Garland, Sr.*

Jimmie M. Garland, President, #5582

Tele: (931) 216-6745

Email: [jimmie.garland@hotmail.com](mailto:jimmie.garland@hotmail.com)

Cf:

Senator Tim Barnes, District 22

Representative Curtis Johnson, District 68

Representative Phillip Johnson, District 78

Representative Joe Pitts, District 67

President Gloria J. Sweet-Love, President, TN State Conf NAACP