<u>Attempted to Ban Our Right to Protest</u>

AZ HB 2309 would create a new class 6 felony called "violent or disorderly assembly" for protests of seven or more people. ALEC-tied Rep. Bret Roberts sponsored the anti-protest legislation that would create a new crime of "violent or disorderly assembly" to apply to those who, along with seven or more people, intend to engage in conduct constituting a riot and cause damage to property or injury to someone else. The bill would make using laser pointers, fireworks, damage more than $250, obstructing a street, public nuisance and more felonies instead of misdemeanors. Marilyn Rodriguez of the ACLU said the measure, "Allows police and prosecutors to target black and brown communities who speak out against the brutality they face at the hands of police each and every day." The bill was recommended by the Senate minority caucus to pass in April, but it is stuck. [Arizona Daily Star, 2/16/2021; HB 2309, Recommended do pass by Senate minority caucus on 4/20/2021; The Arizona Republic, 2/15/2021]

ALEC tied Arizona Representative John Kavanagh sponsored anti-protest legislation that would expand the definition of residential picketing to include a class 3 misdemeanor. AZ HB 2016 would expand the definition of residential picketing to include, "actions…that a reasonable person would find the acts harassing, annoying or alarming." The legislation would infringe on free speech. HB 2016 was assigned to the Rules and Judiciary Committee, but never moved. [HB 2016, second reading, 2/8/2022]

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