Arizona Senate Bill 1070 has ignited a national debate about how to handle illegal immigration. Throughout the summer, the Las Cruces Bulletin will be asking residents what they think of the controversial law and what should be done about the problem.

Maria Nevarez
Age: 55
Occupation/vocation: Registered nurse
Place of residency: Las Cruces
Comments on the news regarding Arizona Senate Bill 1070: I think if the federal government was taking charge of the situation, it wouldn’t have come to this. I think it’s the federal government’s job to see that these undocumented immigrants are given a fair chance, especially those who have been here for more than 10 years. They should have rights as human beings. If undocumented immigrants left, our economy would be much worse. Arizona’s economy would be much worse. No one is willing to do the work they do. Have you read Arizona Senate Bill 1070? Parts of it What is your solution to the illegal immigration issue in America? I think they should be given a fair chance to become U.S. citizens.

Do you have any first-hand experience with undocumented immigrants? I do. My son is a border Patrol agent and I also have friends who are undocumented. Many of them are so fearful that they are moving to surrounding states. I have two friends from Arizona who have recently moved to New Mexico.

Linda Lyday
Age: 48
Occupation/vocation: Librarian
Place of residency: Elephant Butte
Comments on the news regarding Arizona Senate Bill 1070: If you go to a Middle East country and cross their border illegally, you’re shot on the spot. In Europe, you’re fined heavily. Here, they get off for free. A lot of people don’t understand the bill -- they haven’t read the law. It’s only if the (officers) have suspicious cause that they will then ask for legal documentation. They have a right to ask. Have you read Arizona Senate Bill 1070? Parts of it What is your solution to the illegal immigration issue in America? Get rid of the present government and replace it with people that know what they’re doing. They need to figure out a way to let these people come into the country legally. We need to overthrow the rich millionaires and their mouthpiece, Barack Obama.

Do you have any first-hand experience with undocumented immigrants? A lot. I help them on a daily basis, and I have friends who are undocumented.

Alex Hernandez
Age: 18
Occupation/vocation: Unemployed
Place of residency: Las Cruces
Comments on the news regarding Arizona Senate Bill 1070: It doesn’t really affect me,