

WHY ARE SO MANY UNDOCUMENTED PEOPLE HERE?

Some are here because they are fleeing violence, but most are here because of jobs. The bulk of these jobs are in the agricultural and meat processing sectors.. These are jobs that Americans prefer not to do. If immigrants were not employed in these jobs, there would be shortages of vegetables, fruits and meat, which would lead to higher prices. The anti-immigrant position never mentions how much consumers would be paying for less and less goods. Nor does it ever mention the U.S. strategy of propping up oppressive regimes, causing poverty and a lack of economic opportunities to feed families.

BUT AREN'T THEY "UNDOCUMENTED"?

So were most previous immigrants. American immigration regulations did not require documentation until 1918. Any of your relatives who entered the country before that date were "undocumented".

BUT AREN'T THEY A DRAIN ON RESOURCES?

Undocumented workers do use schools, hospitals and other public services. But they also pay for these services with payroll deductions for Federal, state and local taxes. They support growth in local communities, purchasing food, medicine, clothes, etc. They are also paying local sales taxes.

WHAT ABOUT BRINGING CRIME?

Studies have shown that immigrants are less likely than native-born citizens to commit crimes or become incarcerated..

WHAT ABOUT BRINGING DISEASES?

Most Latin countries have higher vaccination rates than the U.S.

BUT WE CAN'T AFFORD TO ABSORB THEM INTO OUR POPULATION?

Consider that the average American marriage is producing two or fewer children. This means that parents who have two children are merely replacing themselves. Federal statistics confirm that we are in a state of zero population growth. To continue to sustain ourselves in a zero population growth environment means higher taxes and costs for dwindling resources. The only way that we can gain population is by immigration. Immigrants are absolutely necessary to the continued growth of the country.

BUT THEY ARE HERE ILLEGALLY

True. It is time to change that status by offering a path to citizenship. What is the alternative? To do otherwise means building thousands of large internment centers. We then would have to hire a significantly large workforce to round up twelve million people and place them in these camps while the government sorts out who gets deported to where, all subject to judicial review. And while this is occurring, the government would be responsible for feeding the internees, educating their children, and providing necessary medical services. The cost of such an operation is hundreds of billions of dollars. It would necessarily mean diverting considerable resources from other areas. Where this cost is going to come from is never mentioned by those who oppose a path to citizenship. Isn't it cheaper, as well as morally better, to have undocumented immigrants continue to work to support themselves while the paperwork for legalization takes place?

-- S J O G Sanctuary