

Trump Supporters, There Is a Better Way to Deal with “Bad Hombres”



Trump is right- we do “have some bad hombres” in America, but singling-out Latinos and subjecting them to immediate deportation deprives them of their constitutional rights. Yes, illegal immigrants have constitutional rights. I am writing to show that illegal immigrants are not as big of a problem as we think. And while it is apparent that illegal immigrants are not American, the means through which we are finding and incarcerating them is un-American, too.

Illegal immigrants are concerning to us for both economic and safety reasons. Because they are undocumented, there is no way of knowing their whereabouts, what activities or work they engage in, or about their backgrounds- leaving many of us feeling uncertain and even afraid.

But why is there skepticism surrounding the topic of undocumented immigrants?

Because we are living in a time of economic unpredictability. Our country experienced the largest recession since the Great Depression less than a decade ago, and we are still recovering.

It is widely believed that illegal immigrants increase the competition for American jobs and lower our wages. Illegal immigrants, however, account for only about five percent of our workforce, and they mainly take jobs from low-skilled American workers. Low-skilled American workers can, in turn, specialize in tasks that require better English which, according to the law of comparative advantage, will increase our trading partners, thus increasing productivity in our market.

Further skepticism originates from the topic of taxes. Although Trump may have not paid federal income taxes for years, illegal immigrants not paying taxes is a huge problem for our economy, right? They reap the fruits of our labor through use of tax dollar funded facilities such as hospitals or schools, and add to our financial burden. This may seem unfair, but in reality, illegal immigrants account for about 12 billion dollars of taxes every year while thousands of millionaires avoid paying federal income taxes entirely.

We are skeptical about illegal immigrants because we live in a time when overdose deaths have reached an all-time high at more than 50,000 in 2016 alone. With around 22 million Americans using illegal drugs, eighty percent of which comes from Latin America, it is apparent that drug use in America is an epidemic that needs to be controlled. Many of us believe the more illegal immigrants that cross our borders, the higher the influx of drugs in our country. According to the 2013 United States Sentencing Commission, around 74 percent of drug traffickers were United States citizens, and around half had no prior criminal history. We are contributing to the drug epidemic three times more than undocumented immigrants- the international drug trade will not diminish once illegal immigrants depart.

Illegal immigrants are also viewed as posing a threat to our safety because they have not gone through standard screening procedures. Therefore, it is impossible to tell whether or not an illegal immigrant is coming to the United States with good intentions or with intent to commit a terrorist attack. Only ten illegal immigrants from the near 27 million that have come to our country between 1975 and 2015, however, were terrorists, none of whom were from Latin America.

Illegal immigrants have been depicted as freeloaders who take advantage of our hard-work and legal system. They are viewed as a threat to our national security and to our citizens. While some of these claims about illegal immigrants being concerning for our economy and safety are not so far-fetched, many are entirely unfounded as I have discussed above.

Most of the efforts under Trump's campaign have been directed towards this "immigration problem," because in order to "make America great again," we must apparently prioritize our citizens' needs and ignore the needs of illegal immigrants.

I agree that we must prioritize our citizens' needs, but not at the cost of depriving illegal immigrants of their basic rights because they came to our soil without paperwork. Under the Trump administration, there has been an increase in ICE raids resulting in the deportation of over 35,000 people since January, and the arrests of thousands more. Not only are these raids targeting Latinos, but they are also leading to the deportation of illegal immigrants without due process. Both of these factors are unconstitutional, and go against American values of providing

aid and safety, especially towards people who come from Latin America- a region with some of the highest crime and poverty rates in the world.

The best solution for this “immigration problem” would be to first, and foremost, educate one another on what problems actually emerge from illegal immigration, and dismantle claims that are unwarranted, yet widespread- only then can this “immigration problem” be seen in through a more realistic manner. It is impossible to completely restrict illegal immigrants from coming to our country, but instead of resorting to un-American tactics to deport illegal immigrants who are already here, such as targeting illegal immigrants on the basis of race or deporting them without due process, we should focus on improving our border control and screening procedures. We should worry more about the new wave of immigrants, instead of focusing our attention on how to locate and deport the twelve million already here.

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