

Research and Personal Observation About Illegal Immigration Policy

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Social media and television experts continue the debate about illegal immigrants, DACA and amnesty. In 2006, the discussion surrounded the impact illegal immigration has on the US economy. Today's debate revolves about the emotional issue of children brought to the United States by their parents entering and living here illegally.

My experience with the illegal immigrants I have known is they are family oriented and grateful to be here in a country with opportunity for those who wish to work hard. They do not like debt and are a cash and carry culture. They do not like American values which means too much emphasis on money. We work too much and should spend more time with important things in life like ones family.

My insights into the nation's illegal immigration debate are from 1) studies from public policy research organization – RAND – about its impact in California and Los Angeles; 2) my work volunteering one evening a month treating and speaking with the illegal immigrants in the Conejo Valley; 3) volunteering to install solar panels on homes of low cost housing in Oxnard which were occupied by illegal immigrants, and 3) living in Los Angeles and southern California for over 52 years. My observations are based on my communication with the people who entered this country illegally and use services that cost more than what they put back into the system.

Illegal immigrants are told by the Spanish speaking radio stations, television and their neighbors that if they are working and paying taxes, they can vote. When I correct those with this understanding, I am not believed given the weight of my voice versus many other authorities. Thus, Los Angeles County has 144% registered voters. The overage reasons are numerous which may be due to deceased voters who's names have not been removed from the list; people who moved out of the county; illegal immigrants registered to vote but are legally NOT allowed to do so because the Constitution says they can't, etc.

Something not found in their country of origin is the opportunity but also the generous support our country provides. Free services like public education, school breakfast, lunch and dinner served year round, college scholarships and aid which are not available to US citizens. Free medical care at the ER where there is a slim to no possibility of the hospital being paid which shifts and increases the costs to Americans with health insurance or a valid home address to make up for those who don't pay or can't pay.

We have teenagers and college students who can't get entry level jobs at minimum wage because illegal immigrants are taking those positions. Our youth are not look for work until their early 20's when a strong work ethic should have been developing with their first paying job at 12 or 13 years of age.

Illegal immigrant labor benefits and enriches wealthy business owners who are paying a low wage. Too much low skilled labor in our economy keeps wages low. Absent the excess low skilled labor, teenagers, college students and seniors can get a job and wages would rise .

Little known to most Americans is that illegal immigrants providing a service have two fee schedules - higher price for the Gringo and a lower price for Hispanics.

Getting a job can be difficult for the English only speaker because employers, managers and foreman want to say it once in Spanish and not repeat it in English. Good bye construction, retail and fast food jobs.

Those in the construction trades who know building codes, passed and paid the California contractors licensing exam and fee, carry Work Comp insurance, pay city business taxes, pay the employee payroll taxes that adds 30% onto the workers wage, are undercut by illegal immigrant labor posing as contractors who do not have these expenses. The home owner likes the price and unknowingly hire the illegal immigrant labor. The city does not have enough inspectors to find and fine the unlicensed contractor. My heart goes out to US contractors and trades because you need to pay your home mortgage and buy food for the family but can't get work because you follow the rules and can't compete on price compared to illegal immigrants who take your work.

The United States had the minimum number of **LEGAL** immigrants entering our country set at 500,000 annually but that changed to 1,000,000 annually some 40 years ago. This is a minimum which is exceeded annually. Add the millions of illegal immigrants coming in taking jobs Americans do want but at a reasonable wage, it is no wonder why our labor mix is out of balance hurting American workers and families.

The United States limits the number of **LEGAL** immigrants entering annually so the economy is not saturated with too many labor types that drive American wages down plus this limit helps the new Americans assimilate into the our culture.

The estimated number of illegal immigrants in the United States is very incorrect when one considers that last year over 600,000 foreigners over stayed their visitor Visa. They arrived but never left. Multiply this by 40 years, it is obvious the actual number of illegal immigrants is much higher than the frequently reported 11 million.

RAND studies of the 1990's found the characteristics of illegal immigrants are low skilled, low income, low educated and have lots of children. This drives down wages and limits entry level jobs for our children. It packs our school classrooms to an unmanageable level for teachers to be effective. Illegal immigrants **TAKE TWO GENERATIONS TO PAY BACK WHAT THEY CONSUME** in social programs like education, healthcare services, food stamps and law enforcement.

The illegal immigrants consume greater costs in social programs and services than **LEGAL** immigrants who are higher skilled, higher wages, higher educated and **PAY THEIR WAY IN ONE GENERATION.**

When 55% of the illegal immigrants enter the country by walking across the border - we need a wall. When 45% are overstays on student and tourist visas, we need employers to use e-Verify when hiring a new employee. If the illegal immigrant can't get a job, they can't eat. If they can't eat, they go home. The same feet that brought them here will take them back. No mass deportation needed. They will deport themselves.

We need a biometric, tamper proof national identification card which uses finger print, facial and iris recognition to verify the holder to be here in the country legally and can be used with E-verify for work eligibility.

Congress needs to stop maternity tourist citizenship's where pregnant women, in their last trimester, arrive at a birthing center operated out of a hotel or apartment to deliver the baby so the child receives a US birth certificate. In 18 years, the child is eligible for college scholarships, lower college tuition costs and other services for a US citizen. Require one parent be a US citizen to grant the child a US birth certificate and citizenship. If neither parent is a US citizen, the child retains the parent's national citizenship. We are the only country that uses birth on our soil as being a citizen. It is a carryover from the civil war and the basis to grant US citizenship for freed slaves.

Absent Illegal Immigration

When I hear others speak of a wall as unAmerican, or allow them to stay, or build bridges not walls, I look at our US citizen, sons and daughters, mothers and fathers who can't make it due to too many illegal immigrants.

Absent the illegal immigrants, our class size in Los Angeles public schools would be 50% smaller but the schools would have the same if not more money per student.

Freeways and highways would be 50% less busy with fewer pot holes. Commute time, to and from work, would be greatly reduced which improves air quality and saves fuel costs.

The \$3,000 per month apartments rent in Los Angeles would be half so your children can afford an apartment instead of living at home until 35 years of age.

Our hospitals would not be on the verge of closing due to non-payment of services because the illegal immigrant gave a bogus home address. It is also contributes to the creation of the Affordable Care Act(ACA) which was Governments' attempt to stop hospital closures.

Our jails and prisons would have one-third fewer prisoners which would have prevented the courts instructing California to reduce the inmate population. The state put forth Proposition 47 (Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act passed November 2014) that reduces certain drug possession felonies to misdemeanors and Proposition 57 (California Parole for Non-Violent Criminals passed November, 2016) which allows parole consideration for nonviolent felons. Prisoners were released onto our streets resulting in crime increase and homeless population in Los Angeles and California.

The flow of drugs into the country would be greatly reduced making it harder for our children to get addicted, become unemployable and homeless.

The drug, extortion and identity theft crimes perpetrated by gangs like MS13 (Mara Salvatrucha) would be reduced. MS13 is a gang who's US base in Los Angeles began in the late 1980's and has grown to 6,000 members in 42 states. Its reach has captured the attention of New York and New Jersey with brutal murders on their streets.

We would keep \$20 billion dollars per year in the USA to stimulate our economy and not other countries. Keeping it here helps our economy grow.

We are a generous country but at what price should we pay? Help these people seeking a better life in their country of origin. Mexico is the greatest contributor to the USA illegal immigrant population yet Mexico is one of the wealthiest countries in the world through its natural resources, manufacturing, export, etc.

Vicente Fox does not want a wall because a loss of \$20 billion annually will negatively impact Mexico's economy. Mexico needs to look inward to fix its mess and help its people - not rely on the generosity of the American people.

Leaders in the Hispanic community say that Mexico will take over California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas without firing a shot. Will be done by the Mexican mother's womb. More births mean more voters to influence US elections and to succeed from America.

Twelve years ago when President Bush tried to fix illegal immigration, I spent three months reading 15 public policy studies from RAND, Manhattan Institute plus others. I realized illegal immigration is worse than the media portrays it to be. It gave me a different perspective about the damage illegal immigration is doing to the USA.

The American people are very generous when trying to help its fellow citizen who is down on their luck. Absent our free social programs, we would not be discussing illegal immigration. But then again, the free social programs are part of what draws illegal immigrants to the USA.

For the politicians and policy makers who are motivated to read the public policy studies about illegal immigration in Southern California and Los Angeles, go to the RAND website and search the principal investigator McCarthy and immigration as a search word. Copy and paste this link to be directed to the studies.

<https://www.rand.org/search.html?query=mccarthy%20immigration>

Check List To Fix Illegal Immigration

1. **E-Verify** – Require all employers use E-Verify when hiring an employee. (Stops 45% of illegal immigration)
2. **Border Wall** – Build a secure border fence along the US Mexico Border with agents to patrol effectively and monitor those entering and exiting the country. Use manned patrols, cameras, drones and sonar for tunnel detection. (Stops 55% of illegal immigration)
3. **One Parent is a US Citizen** – One parent must be a US citizen for a child born in the United States to receive citizenship. (Stop Maternity Tourist Citizenship).
4. **National Identification Card** – Biometric National Identification Card which is tamper proof, using finger print, facial and iris recognition to verify the holder to be in the country legally and work eligible. It is identification for employment eligibility and proof of citizenship. (Note: Other countries use such a work identification card plus it reduced identity theft.)
5. **Legal Immigration Based on Economic Need** – Legal immigration should be based on US economic need and not family ties. Use a similar point system in Canada as a model.
6. **Merit Based Legal Immigration** – Eliminate family ties as the reason for immigration. Citizenship should be merit based and economic need. (See Australia’s immigration system as a model.)
7. **Lower the Annual Legal Immigration Levels** – The number of legal immigrants admitted to the United States should be lowered to its previous level of 500,000 per year.
8. **Lottery System** – Eliminate the random selection of the Lottery Immigration method. Citizenship is an honor earned by the applicant, not gambling or a game of chance like state’s LOTTO drawing. Immigration is not a Las Vegas game of chance.
9. **H2-A Guest Worker Program** – Expand the guest worker program to fulfill the agriculture need. Note that automation is eliminating the need for farm workers.
10. **Sanctuary City/State Denied Federal Funds** – If a city or state refuses to obey federal immigration law, all federal funding is withdrawn.