

Name

Date

Gathering Information on Immigration Reform

Source 1 of 3

We are America [Editorial]. (2007, February 18). New York Times. Retrieved May 20, 2007, from <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/02/18/opinion/18sun1.html?ex=1329454800&en=0b71ca7f688ea471&ei=5088&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss>.

The New York Times editorial board addresses their concerns about United States immigration policy in this article. They point out that a lot has happened since the large immigration rights demonstrations in May, 2006. Not all that has happened has helped further reform of our immigration laws. In their opinion, the United States has gotten too tough in their enforcement of immigration policy.

The article lists seven trends that are detrimental to immigration reform. The editors see these trends as counterproductive to America's interests at home and abroad. These trends are:

- Increased border enforcement that is moving the point of entry for illegal immigrants to a desert area where the immigrants are at greater risk from smugglers and hostile climates.
- New instances of federal raids have raised fears among immigrants that they will be separated from their families by deportation.
- Local governments are cracking down on illegal immigrants by making life difficult for them, such as banning Spanish, targeting immigrants for arrest, etc.
- The right to due process expected by Americans is being denied to illegal immigrants. "Immigrants are routinely detained without bond, denied access to lawyers, deported without appeal and punished for one-time or minor infractions..."
- The Justice department seeks to create a web of suspicion by extracting DNA samples from detained immigrants and set up a database that would implicate many innocent people.
- The federal government recently increased the cost of becoming a US citizen over 66%, creating an economic hardship for many who seek citizenship.
- The Anti-Defamation League, which tracks intolerance, has found an increase in Ku Klux Klan activity across the country, most of it focused on hatred of new immigrants.

The New York Times advocates for reform in the immigration policy and sees citizenship as a major piece of this reform. They agree that illegal immigrants should pay fines and back taxes, but assert that a path to citizenship is essential. Their viewpoint is that our borders should be open to immigrants and citizenship is the best way to include them in American life.

Source 2 of 3

Colvin, G. (2005, September 5). *On immigration policy, we've got it backward*. Fortune, 152(5), 44. Retrieved May 20, 2007, from ABI Inform database.

The author of this article, Mr. Colvin, believes that our immigration policy needs to be changed. He points out two groups that are not dealt with correctly by the existing immigration policies. Our current policy does not allow enough foreigners with exceptional skills and talents to come to work in the United States. On the other hand, illegal immigrants with low skills are flooding through our borders. Mr. Colvin feels that each group should be treated differently.

The United States began to limit the number of H1-B visas in 1990. A H1-B visa allows highly skilled foreigners to work in the United States. To qualify for a H1-B visa, the foreigner must be sponsored by a company and have skills or talents that are in high demand and low supply in the United States. Examples of jobs that qualify for H1-B visas are engineers, scientists, and computer science professionals. These workers not only fulfill a need in our economy, they also create other jobs by the work that they do. These workers also pay taxes and add to our economy in other ways. "Now is the worst time to be turning away some of the world's most capable, value-creating workers."

The low-skilled illegal immigrants that cross our border from Mexico and Central America take jobs at the low end of the economy. Although these jobs do not pay much, these workers are willing to risk arrest and deportation. This is because they can earn more money in the US than in their home countries. Although these workers usually do not pay taxes, they do have a role on our economy. They perform jobs that most Americans will not do.

Mr. Colvin feels that the current policy has it backward. The United States should change its immigration laws so more of the skilled workers can come here. It should be easier to get H1-B visas and the limits for the total number of these visas should be very high. For the illegal immigrants, the author's solution is not as simple. The United States needs illegal immigrants to do necessary jobs and making them leave would waste billions of dollars in a futile effort. Our immigration policy needs to find a way to "make it worth their while to become tax-paying, on-the-books workers for at least a few years."

The article predicts that interest in changing the United States immigration policy soon. The author has raised some interesting issues that need to be considered for future legislation. In this article, Mr. Colvin's view of immigration reform is that allowing the talent and skills that are needed to work here legally is the policy for the United States.

Source 3 of 3

Hornberger, J. G. (2006, March 31). *A free market in immigration*. Retrieved May 20, 2007, from <http://www.fff.org/comment/com0603i.asp>.

The author of this article, Mr. Hornberger, believes that a free market approach would work best for immigration reform in the United States. Free market means that people should be free to go where they can serve their economic interests best. This perspective is based on a libertarian view of the economy. Mr. Hronberger is the founder and president of The Future of Freedom Foundation (FFF). The FFF is an organization that endorses policies that “advance freedom by providing an uncompromising moral and economic case for individual liberty, free markets, private property, and limited government.”

In the US, people have open borders between states and this openness works to each individuals benefit. For example, if a Californian believes that working in Texas would benefit himself and his family, he is free to move across the state borders and settle in Texas. The author believes that this same freedom of movement should be extended to our nation borders. He wants to demilitarize our border and abolish the Border Patrol. He feels that “freedom and free markets ...[are] the solution to international travel. Leave foreigners free to travel to the United States, tour, visit, trade, interact, work, and open businesses.”

Having open borders may seem drastic to many, but this viewpoint has support among free market economists. After all, the countries that are part of the European Union have open borders and this has been a successful economy policy for all the countries involved. It is still unclear whether this viewpoint could become part of American immigration policy.