

Title: Encouraging Legal Immigration: An Economic Outlook and Solution to Illegal Immigration

Presenter: Emily Aralar, Cerro Coso College

Mentor: Melanie Jeffrey

As the U.S is concerned with illegal immigration, there are ways immigrants help the economy, such as paying taxes and joining the workforce. If we realize that illegal immigrants are not an economic burden to the U.S, we can focus on revising the immigration process. By allocating funds to expand the naturalization process, adjust the refugee limit and decrease the amount of illegal immigration removals, the U.S economy and the quality of life of illegal immigrants can improve. Illegal immigrants pay into social security, and receive none of it. This profit can be allocated towards expanding USCIS, to speed up the review process. Also, illegal immigrants contribute to the workforce by creating jobs for U.S citizens, while also contributing to jobs that U.S citizens do not desire. From 2017FY-2020FY, the refugee ceiling has decreased 84%, from allowing 110,000 refugees to 18,000. In 2018, the admission for refugees was 22,491 refugees, compared to the 45,000 ceiling. This decrease in the ceiling and admissions discourages immigration, and does not help the economy. Also, the amount of removals of immigrants with immigrant violations compared to convictions has increased during the Trump Administration, which has overflowed detention centers. By focusing on immigrants with felony charges, we can lessen the overflow without compromising the safety of U.S citizens. By allocating funds to improve the citizenship process and detention centers, as well as adjusting refugee admissions, we can encourage legal immigration and help the economy.

References

American Civil Liberties Union (2019) Immigrants and the U.S Economy.

<https://www.aclu.org/other/immigrants-and-economy>

New American Economy (2019) Undocumented Immigrants

<https://www.newamericaneconomy.org/issues/undocumented-immigrants/>

U.S Immigration and Customs Enforcement (2018) FY2016 – FY2018 ERO Administrative

Arrests by Criminality. Fiscal Year 2018 ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations

Report, Figure 2 <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/about/offices/ero/pdf/eroFY2018Report.pdf>

American Immigration Council (June, 2019) Refugee Admissions into the United States Have

Declined Dramatically Under the Trump Administration. An Overview of U.S. Refugee

Law and Policy. [https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/overview-us-](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/overview-us-refugee-law-and-policy)

[refugee-law-and-policy](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/overview-us-refugee-law-and-policy)