

Immigration



Senator Chuck Schumer , in light of the immigration debate that has raged on for years and the events that have gone on in the recent past, especially in Arizona, I would like to contribute to this ongoing debate on how to deal with the immigration problems in this beloved country of ours. There is a deep resentment among most Americans with the continued flow of illegals across the Mexican border. Americans understand that the vast majority are here to either make a better home for themselves or to earn money that they can send home, themselves eventually returning to their home country.

But they can't ignore the fact that they are here illegally, compete with Americans for jobs, and increase the burden on school systems and other government services. We generously have had at least two previous amnesties, but we can not continue to allow undocumented, possibly criminal individuals to continue flaunting our borders. Whereas we can all agree that there is no single remedy to this problem of mass influx of immigration from our border with Mexico, there are small steps which I believe should be combined to help give a comprehensive solution to this problem.

First and foremost, American companies who knowingly hire illegal immigrants should should levied with a stiffest financial penalties so that their management would know the danger associated with hiring undocumented workers. This is a very important step because, if illegal immigrants are denied and can not find jobs, at least some will be forced to voluntarily return home. Those who return home will definitely carry with them the unpleasant news of lack of jobs and discourage others from coming.

While some companies have already fined, for example California's Golden State Fence, which in 2006 was fined \$5 million for making a third of 750 workforce illegal immigrants (Horsley, 2006). Golden State Fence built millions of dollars' worth of fencing around homes, offices, and military bases. Its president and one of its Southern California managers will paid fines totaling \$300, 000. The government also recommended jail time for Melvin Kay and Michael McLaughlin, probably about six months.

As encouraging as this story is, the truth of the matter is that it is exceptionally rare for those who employ illegal immigrants to face any kind of criminal prosecution, let alone jail time. immigration raids on six meat-packing plants netted almost 1, 300 suspected illegal workers. But no charges were leveled against the company that runs the plants(MSNBC). On the issues of deporting illegal immigrants to their home countries, I believe we should embark on selective deportation.

Those who have made significant progress towards integration, for instance, by learning English and marrying and having babies here should be granted path to citizenship. Those who are unable to speak English should be sent home because even if they are given citizenship, their lives would be miserable, because of language barrier. Those given chance to be citizens and should pay some financial fines too. To lighten their burden, this fine should be paid in installments over a number of years.

Some people may not agree with this amnesty program, but the truth is that these workers contribute a lot to the American economy by taking jobs which most Americans are not comfortable doing. They do so at a very low price, making the price of the resultant products low too. It is also important, as the

Obama administration has already signaled, to deploy Coast Guard some areas of the boarder. This should be done in areas which are proven to be mostly frequented by illegals.

Border fencing should also be part of this broader process of sealing the border. Building boarders will be expensive but we don't have many options available to deter the mass movements of people across the border. As far as the Law in Arizona is concerned, whereas I disagree that people should not be stopped based on suspicion of being illegals immigrants, it's important that those who have been caught in raids like those in meat-packing factories, and those caught in minor violations like traffic, be deported.