

Legalize Undocumented Immigrants

Juan Bunay

Introduction

There are 12 million undocumented immigrants in this country who deserve to be legalized. They contribute to our society by doing hard jobs and paying taxes. We should have immigration reform so that they have a pathway to citizenship. We should remember that they are human beings.

They Contribute to the Economy

They came to this country to work hard and have better lives, like past immigrants. Undocumented people often do the work that Americans don't like to do. For example, they do hard labor as construction workers and landscapers. They pick fruits and vegetables. They work as babysitters and housekeepers – taking care of people and even giving love. And believe it or not, many undocumented immigrants pay taxes. Legalizing all of the undocumented people would mean even more taxes for the U.S. government.

The fee to apply for citizenship is \$680. Multiply that by 12 million people and think how much that would add up to!

With legal status, these immigrants would boost the economy. They would be able to visit their families, which means they would buy travel tickets and gifts to bring to their families. All of this economic activity would create more jobs.

We Need Immigration Reform

Some people who disagree with me might argue that these undocumented people, once legalized, would take American people's jobs. That will not happen because almost all of these people already have jobs!

People say this is the land of opportunity. Let's make it true! Congress should pass an immigration reform bill that gives undocumented immigrants a pathway to citizenship.



A march for immigrant rights in Philadelphia, 2017. Photo by Joe Piette from Flickr, CC-BY-NC-SA-2.0

Immigrants Deserve Human Rights

Undocumented immigrants are human beings. It's time to give them all legal status. They deserve freedom and rights, and it would be good for our country too!

AFTER YOU READ: What are some examples of immigration reform that people are advocating for in your community or nationally? What do you think immigration reform should look like? Invite a local immigration rights activist to speak to your class or program.

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