

Weekly Newsletter

Beyond a Secure Border: Solving the Immigration Problem



When I was in grade school in the '60s, we had a kid in our class named Manny whose folks were from Mexico. We didn't know if his parents were here legally, and we didn't care. Manny was our friend. People crossing our border without following the legal immigration process was a small problem then; however, it grew exponentially each decade until we have come to the serious issue we have today.



In 1986, President Reagan granted amnesty to three million "illegal" immigrants to alleviate the problem. President Clinton enforced immigration laws by deporting those in the U.S. without green cards or citizenship. President Trump attempted to tackle immigration by building a wall. Although Trump's attempt to curb immigration was like putting a finger in the dike, it slowed the flow.

When Biden was elected, he reversed these border security acts, and we have seen massive numbers of people entering the country illegally. Homeland Security has not updated records since 2022. Why? Is it because the numbers are staggering? Check out these statistics from earlier this year:
<https://www.factcheck.org/2024/02/breaking-down-the-immigration-figures>.





Stopping the flow at the border is a critical first step to making our country more secure; however, it isn't a total solution to our immigration problem. It doesn't address those already living here illegally. However, deporting the estimated 13 million undocumented individuals to their countries of origin would be like putting cooked spaghetti back in the box! Not to mention the cost.

And what about those who have been here for 20 years or more? I have no reason to think Manny and his family came here illegally, but what if they did? Should we deport them? Should we "return" our friend and classmate to a country he doesn't know?

It is more logical to come up with a solution that allows those without citizenship to become permanent residents. But how is that fair to those who came to the U.S. legally? Wouldn't legal immigrants be ill-treated if we granted amnesty to all of those who are here without documentation?



One solution is to create a process that allows undocumented immigrants to remain with either a work permit or a path to citizenship with the requisite of paying a significant fine. Money collected from the process could be used to enforce border security and the deportation of those who pose a risk to our citizens. Those who have been in the criminal system would not be eligible.

We need to get serious about solving the immigration problem in the next four years instead of passing it from one administration to the next and from one Congress to the next. Reinforcing our borders is essential, but we will need to do more to tackle the problem. In Congress, I look forward to being part of the solution.

REACH OUT
FOR A CHAT

Let's chat!

LET'S DO
SOMETHING-
TOGETHER

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