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Illegal Immigration

“An estimated 11.4 million unauthorized immigrants resided in the United States as of January 2012.” These are statistics that NumbersUSA.org has gathered based off the Department of Homeland Security. The large held debate over illegal immigration has been marred by controversy. Our nations laws on illegal immigration have been very clear and straightforward yet never easy to execute and far less easy to mandate and reform. Out of those 11.4 million, 8 million are in the workforce leaving only 3.4 million who are currently unemployed. There is no doubt that immigration plays a key role in our nations economy and culture however, where do we draw the line between what is right and what is wrong? It proposes a moral question of do we enforce laws even if the people don’t agree with the morality of the law. How do we handle cases and situations where deporting an illegal immigrant would break up a family, causing a divide between a child and their parent? What is expected of us as Americans and what effect does illegal immigration have on us as a nation. These are important questions in the critical debate over illegal immigration and just a few of the aspects on this large and heated debate.

Discussing illegal immigration with anyone is a tricky subject, as they may know someone who is one or knows someone that knows someone. Stating ones opinion on the subject is likely to bring some animosity or create a friendship. Whatever a person’s position on this topic is, we must look at the facts and then look to our morality to make

definitive choices and act in a conscious manner. Here are the facts, out of that 11.4 million, 2 million are removable criminal aliens, and out of that 2 million, 840,000(43 percent) are convicted of a crime. That means that 17.5% of the illegal immigrants in this country are convicted of a crime, compare that to Americans which equals out to about 1 in 3 having criminal records. Yet we are quick to call illegal immigrants criminals and not so quick to judge our own people. One could make the argument that Americans have the right to act as they please and accept the consequences because they are Americans, however, that right comes from being human not from being an American, according to our founding fathers who wrote the structure for our legal system. To discriminate or enforce laws on illegal immigrants based on the fact that they are somehow worse or more predestined to act in a negative fashion is simply incorrect, most come to America in search of a better life for themselves and for their families.

Brass tax time, is it right to not enforce a law simply because we don't want to hurt someone's feelings or life, or do we follow the law regardless of our perceived discrepancies? Regardless of your opinion it should always come down to how we measure our humanity and morals. If we have nothing to compare and base these metrics on then we are doomed to forever change and never produce anything great. For us, we must measure our morality on the beliefs we hold as to what makes US (collective society) human. What defines humanity? How do we measure it, quantify it? How can we implement our ideas and be responsible with the power given to us? It can't be from a deity because a large population of the world doesn't believe in a higher power, let alone worship one. The law is clear that an illegal immigrant is to be deported back to their home state. That is where the debate has to stop, what the law says, and if we don't like it

then we should, as a responsible adult, work to change said law. It isn't always the prettiest thing to say, nor the most popular but it is the right thing. Part of what makes us human is our structure and civilized rules of society. We need order and structure to maintain our organized and improved lifestyle. Without an order to the system we cannot maintain our way of life. Thus we see that the debate is so rarely on the facts and more so on what is right and what is wrong.

Works Cited

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