

# ***Don't Surrender to Lower Housing Standard***

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To the Editor:

Back off on enforcing New York City's housing codes: that's Peter D. Salins's answer to the miserable housing conditions of hundreds of thousands of impoverished immigrants (Op-Ed, Oct. 26). If his prescription sounds familiar, that's because it is like frequently heard advice to go along with sweatshops and minimum-wage violations, since those are means of giving low-skilled immigrants a foothold and of preserving small businesses.

Both approaches involve public assent to the lowering of hard-won standards that are morally and economically crucial. Better management of immigration itself, not surrender to third world working and housing standards, must be this nation's response to the squalor that threatens low-income immigrants and natives alike.

DAVID SIMCOX

Louisville, Ky., Oct. 28, 1996

The writer is policy-board chairman of the Center for Immigration Studies.

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