

## **Governor backs guest-worker plan**

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**Byline:** Mary Anne Ostrom, Mercury News

### **Body**

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Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger waded into the debate over immigration reform Tuesday, saying the nation needs to respect its immigrants but warned of "anarchy" should citizenship be granted to those who enter the country illegally.

As he has in the past, the Republican **governor**, who immigrated from Austria 38 years ago, laid blame on the federal government for not having strong border enforcement and for spending years bickering over reforms.

"I believe very strongly that the federal government has to get their act together," the **governor** said Tuesday in response to a question at a San Francisco economic forum.

And in an opinion article published Tuesday in the Los Angeles Times, he called for "a comprehensive new law that respects immigrants and protects our nation" that would include a temporary-work program and better border controls. He cited his refusal to sign legislation to give driver's licenses to illegal immigrants as a consequence of lax border controls.

Democrats in Congress have criticized some Republican legislation -- including a House-approved bill that would turn illegal immigrants into felons -- for using security concerns as a ruse to crack down on illegal immigrants who come to seek work.

Schwarzenegger wrote in the Times that "criminalizing immigrants for coming here is a slogan, not a solution."

But the **governor** does not believe anyone who enters the country illegally should be eligible for citizenship.

He wrote in the Times, "Granting citizenship to people who are here illegally is not just amnesty -- it's anarchy."

Instead, Schwarzenegger said at the forum, convened by the Bay Area Council, that he **backs** increased visas when U.S. employers cannot find American **workers** to do the job. He also said he was encouraged by continuing debate on various proposals now in Congress.

Contact Mary Anne Ostrom at [mostrom@mercurynews.com](mailto:mostrom@mercurynews.com) or (415) 477-3794.

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