

## **Strict immigration law unfairly targets Hispanics**

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### **Body**

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The idea some hold that undocumented immigrants do not contribute to the Oklahoma economy is simply untrue ("**Strict immigration law** rattles Okla. businesses," Cover story, News, Thursday).

Immigrants cannot access many public services without proper documentation. A majority of those here illegally do not even try for fear of disclosing their undocumented status. Yet, they still pay state and local taxes, including sales tax.

Despite this fact, the ill-conceived claim that undocumented **immigration** is hurting Oklahoma is powerful because it scapegoats Hispanic residents by making them the **target** for popular frustration and fear. In speaking out against the **law**, many Hispanic and non-Hispanic residents have received death threats and much hate mail.

Not only is what is known as House Bill 1804, the Oklahoma Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act of 2007, negatively impacting the Oklahoma economy, it has effectively terrorized the Hispanic population.

**Law** enforcement officers -- both in police and sheriff departments -- need to be held more accountable for how they interact with **Hispanics**.

It is truly tragic that a **law** such as this could be serving as a "model" for other states. People should be aware that this **law** is not a viable remedy to the current **immigration** question.

Further, it is not an exaggeration to say that with this legislation, Oklahoma has returned to the bad old days of Jim Crow, when African-Americans were the **target** of hate groups, mob violence and racist state **laws**.

The only difference today is that the new victims are Hispanic.

Andrew G. Wood

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Compete, don't exploit

I am extremely pro-business, but businesses should not expect to succeed by paying less than legal wages.

The arguments being made today for allowing illegal immigrants to work in the USA are the same arguments that were made 150 years ago for the continuation of slavery.

In Oklahoma, we believe in competition, not exploitation.

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Creede B. Kurtz

Ardmore, Okla.

### Graphic

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PHOTO, B/W, AP

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