

Woven Into Our Midst

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Body

A Feb. 6 Metro article, "Latino Groups Lobby for More Rights," about activists urging the Virginia legislature to tone down anti-immigrant legislation, reported that a member of the Virginia Council for Immigration Reform said that Virginia bills under consideration are not "anti-immigrant" but only anti-illegal immigrant.

The distinction he attempts to make is misleading. People working in this country without permission from the federal government do not exist in isolation.

They are the husbands, wives, sons and daughters of legal immigrants and U.S. citizens. They are our friends, neighbors and co-workers.

They attend our churches. They shop in our stores and sit next to us at Little League games.

The idea that illegal immigrants can be excised from our midst without hurting the remaining immigrant community or the community at large is simply false.

"They" are us.

CHARLOTTE STICHTER

Takoma Park

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