

Letters: An inhumane proposal on birthright citizenship

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Body

As a Sister of Mercy, I am dismayed to learn that a Pennsylvania legislator is leading a coalition of lawmakers from several states to deny **citizenship** to U.S.-born children of undocumented immigrants ("Pa. legislator in '**birthright** fight,' Thursday). Proposed bills would require the states to deny standard birth certificates to these children. This is a clear violation of the U.S. Constitution.

The lawmakers' **proposal** comes out of a context of fear and distrust of "the other." This is not an appropriate environment in which to have a civil discussion of the issue.

The Sisters of Mercy, who have a long history of service to immigrants, recognize that our immigration system is broken. We have a commitment to immigration reform that recognizes the need to protect our borders but that also recognizes the need for family unification and a way for undocumented immigrants to earn legal status.

The **proposal** around **birthright citizenship** is an ill-advised and **inhumane** way to deal with the issue.

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