

## **What to Do About Illegal Immigrants**

The Washington Post

October 15, 2005 Saturday, Final Edition

Copyright 2005 The Washington Post



**Section:** Editorial; A17

**Length:** 549 words

### **Body**

---

Your Oct. 5 editorial "The Politics of Immigration" was ridiculous.

When did the term "illegal alien" become "undocumented worker?" Of course, this switch fits the tone of the editorial. Stating that an attorney general is cracking down on things "illegal" makes it look as if he was doing his job, while stating that he is cracking down on "undocumented" folks makes it seem as if he is being downright mean.

As for Republican gubernatorial nominee Jerry Kilgore's suggestion that the state dedicate 50 troopers to combat illegal immigration, The Post counters that "the state has enough other crime to keep its troopers busy." Wow. Who hasn't thought or said that to the trooper pulling him or her over on Interstate 95 for speeding, or lighting up a joint, or jaywalking (I actually got a ticket for that once)? Change the laws if they are misguided, but let's not just ignore them.

The Post ends the editorial by stating, "In seeking to crack down on and evict undocumented workers, Mr. Kilgore should bear the burden of explaining how the employment market would replace them."

Sounds nice.

But the next time some Third World leader tries to win an election by claiming to enforce tougher child labor laws, let's see if The Post feels the same way.

-- Edward Koubek Jr.

Gaithersburg

\*

Your editorial page has derided opposition to day-laborer centers as "populist nonsense," adding that the presence of the illegal workers these centers would serve is necessary because "the American economy wants and needs low-wage workers." Aside from the naked elitism in that sentiment, it also seems to defy the most basic tenet of market theory, which would suggest that something as sought after as unskilled labor in the growing economies of Virginia and Maryland would not remain low-wage for long.

## What to Do About Illegal Immigrants

The only way to ensure that market forces fail to work their magic on these wages is to keep most of these workers right where their employers want them: unorganized, undocumented and illegal.

The burden of dealing with illegal workers ultimately falls on the federal government, and the consequences of the federal failure in this area are far more troubling than some noise and congestion on a Gaithersburg street corner. But until the federal government faces head-on the problem of illegal immigration, local governments should at least do no further harm.

-- Donald Sellitti

Montgomery Village

\*

An Oct. 9 editorial urging Maryland Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. to reinstate taxpayer-funded health benefits for recent immigrant children and pregnant women ignored critical facts.

These immigrants were admitted based in large part on their sponsors' promise to the government that their needs, including health care, would be met by their sponsors during their first five years here.

It is a fundamental and rational part of our immigration policy to require a substantial number of would-be immigrants (but not those seeking emergency refuge or asylum) to prove that they will be initially self-supporting (or supported by their sponsors, usually family members).

Absent that promise, the immigrants now seeking free health care would probably have not been admitted, and other financially independent applicants would have.

-- Peg Manning

Los Angeles

## Classification

---

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Document-Type:** Letter

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (91%); FOREIGN LABOR (90%); IMMIGRATION (89%); WAGES & SALARIES (89%); LETTERS & COMMENTS (79%); CHILD LABOR LAWS (78%); POLITICS (78%); GOVERNORS (78%); CHILD LABOR (78%); ECONOMIC CONDITIONS (77%); US REPUBLICAN PARTY (75%); REGIONAL & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (75%); LABOR & EMPLOYMENT LAW (71%); ECONOMIC GROWTH (71%); PREGNANCY & CHILDBIRTH (70%); WOMEN'S HEALTH (61%); ATTORNEYS GENERAL (57%)

**Geographic:** MARYLAND, USA (92%); VIRGINIA, USA (79%); UNITED STATES (79%)

**Load-Date:** October 15, 2005

## What to Do About Illegal Immigrants

---

End of Document