

Immigration process puts strain on relationships

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Body

I am a U.S. citizen who is planning to marry a Mexican citizen. My fiancée, who is a medical doctor in Mexico, has a tourist visa and is allowed to visit here. But when we marry and apply for her residency status, she will have to surrender her visa and make the difficult choice of either staying in the USA for six to 12 months while her application is processed, or stay in Mexico for two or more years to wait. I can't help but feel frustrated because hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants are allowed to remain in the USA.

Not only is the U.S. immigration process putting a strain on my relationship with my fiancée, but it has forced us to hire an immigration lawyer and to spend thousands of dollars.

The difficulty of navigating the immigration system shows me that Congress has little regard for our citizens or for stopping this madness.

Dave Hogate

Yuma, Ariz.

Work together

Life for illegal immigrants in the "land of the free" is pure hell. The ones who can find work have to do it for low wages. They work long hours without benefits. For the unlucky ones who get caught and eventually deported to their countries, they are treated like they are the worst kind of criminal. Their only crime is trying to make a living for their families.

I know someone who recently was deported. Because his two children were born here, the U.S. government is responsible for taking care of his kids. I don't understand the reasoning at all.

No fences or laws will stop people from coming to the USA. Americans need to wake up and work on solutions instead of making life hard for vulnerable people.

Ed Villavicencio

Dayton, Ohio

Respect laws

I'm an immigrant who came to the USA 17 years ago. My take on immigration is simple: Immigrants need to understand they are in a host country. They need to get in line and follow the proper procedures as many other people around the world do.

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They basically are saying to the American people, "I don't care about your laws." U.S. taxpayers are paying the price.

Jose Luis Morales

Arlington, Va.

Face consequences

USA TODAY reader Luis Sotelo, who wrote that "immigrants have the potential to become great participants in American society," had good intentions. But he overlooked a significant fact about those who are living illegally in the USA: They are breaking U.S. laws ("Given the chance, illegal immigrants can succeed," Thursday).

It makes no difference how well these immigrants have fared here. They should face the consequences of ignoring U.S. law, and that means being deported. If a person robs a bank, law enforcement will chase that person until he or she is caught. Law enforcement officers should treat illegal immigration the same way they treat other crimes.

Bill Walters

Greenfield, Ind.

Graphic

PHOTO, B/W, Brian Kersey, AP

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