

TIME FOR STATE TO PUT UP THE NO-VACANCY SIGN

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Body

Leon Panetta's article on immigration ("Don't expect bailout to fill 'immigrant gap,' " Commentary, June 7) should make Californians want to scream for immigration reform.

Some examples: Panetta never answers or even hints at the big question.

How can individual **states** be forced to pay enormous sums to finance federal immigration policy? California has 30 million people. Our schools are going broke. We have terrible problems with health care, housing and water. We have a multibillion-dollar debt. Does Panetta really believe it's fair that California is being slammed by 450,000 new immigrants yearly?

Panetta **states**: "We shouldn't tolerate people immigrating illegally." If citizens shouldn't tolerate illegal immigration, then why shouldn't Californians be furious at being forced by the feds to spend billions on government services for illegal immigrants?

Panetta implies that lottery tickets purchased by illegal immigrants should be credited against what California spends on them.

Is he joking? Even if every penny of a lottery ticket went directly to education, the average immigrant family in California (four children) would have to buy 55 tickets daily for 13 years to reimburse taxpayers for what they receive in educational benefits.

Tell your representatives it's **time** for America to get out of the immigration business. California has neither the wealth nor the natural resources to absorb 38,000 new immigrants every month.

It's **time** to shut the door.

-- Bruce Mathias

Aptos

Notes

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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