

Extreme measures won't fix immigration

USA TODAY

March 27, 2007 Tuesday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 19A

Length: 293 words

Body

Michael Medved's recent commentary "Who should stay? Who should go?" divides illegal immigrants up into those who deserve to stay and those who deserve to be deported (The Forum, Wednesday).

From what I understand in talking with people who deal with illegal Mexican immigrants, most of them do not want to stay but they do seek to save enough money to buy a small home back in Mexico so they can return and offer a better life to their families. Therefore, I think a better way of looking at it is to divide illegal immigrants up into those who want citizenship and those who just want to make some money and leave.

The **extreme** views are either full deportation or full amnesty. Medved recognizes that trying to find and deport some estimated 11 million people -- roughly the population equivalent of Los Angeles and San Francisco counties combined -- would be impossible. To force them to leave voluntarily by cutting off jobs would only result in a huge increase in crime by turning people who are working hard at low-paying jobs into thieves and killers. This is no answer. Offering amnesty is not the answer either, as it unjustly penalizes those who have gone through our naturalization process. I reject these two **extremes** as being unacceptable.

We need a simple but voluntary solution to the issue.

For those who want to become U.S. citizens, allow them to buy citizenship by a program of federal "citizenship" loans, to be paid back over several years while they work toward citizenship. For those who want to return to their country of origin, we should make sure that they are documented and that they pay their taxes while here. In exchange, they would get some benefits afforded citizens, such as schooling for children.

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Graphic

GRAPHIC, B/W, Adrienne Lewis, USA TODAY (ILLUSTRATION)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Extreme measures won't fix immigration

Document-Type: DEBATE

Publication-Type: NEWSPAPER

Subject: **IMMIGRATION** (91%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (90%); DEPORTATION (90%); CITIZENSHIP (90%); HISPANIC AMERICANS (78%); AMNESTY (78%); NATURALIZATION (78%); FAMILY (75%); CRIME RATES (52%)

Geographic: LOS ANGELES, CA, USA (79%); SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA, CA, USA (75%); UNITED STATES (79%)

Load-Date: March 27, 2007

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