

The Harm of Illegal Immigrants

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To the Editor:

In Aaron W. Godfrey's June 13 Soapbox essay, "Island's Necessary, Invisible People," he tells us that many **immigrants**, whom he euphemistically calls undocumented but who are in reality **illegal immigrants**, "do the work that we will no longer do." That is nonsense.

If every **illegal immigrant** were gone, the jobs would still exist. Employers would be forced to pay more to have them done. But the savings to the American public in the costs of the education, medical care and welfare we give to **illegal immigrants** would be dramatic.

For example, a recent report by the Federation for American Immigration Reform shows that New York alone spends \$756 million a year to educate the children of **illegal immigrants**. This is money that should be helping educate American children.

Higher wages would encourage American citizens now on welfare to work, saving us even more. Allowing **illegal immigrants** to work rewards two classes of people, the **illegal immigrants** and the employers who illegally hire them. One group of people is **harmed**: the American public.

ROBERT F. LAPORTA

Dix Hills

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