

June 30 Talk Back

San Jose Mercury News (California)

June 29, 2012 Friday

Copyright 2012 San Jose Mercury News All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS

Length: 1153 words

Byline: **Talk Back**: Letters from our readers Oakland Tribune © Copyright 2011, Bay Area News Group

Body

President's action shows leadership

President Barack Obama's executive order to halt deportations of immigrants brought to the United States as children demonstrates leadership.

Allowing these people to obtain permits, legally work and, therefore, pay income tax benefits both them and our nation. The president correctly called this change "the right thing to do" to make immigration policy "more fair, more efficient and more just."

No one can show any benefit in deporting some 800,000 people who graduated from American high schools and are eager to contribute to the country as far as the law allows.

Since even immigration foes propose no means of doing this, apparently they want these American-raised young people to live as a permanent underclass.

The same congressional Republicans who accuse Obama of misusing his executive authority have raised obstructionism to unprecedented heights. Only a GOP-led filibuster prevented the DREAM Act from becoming law in 2010.

Mitt Romney criticizes the timing but can't bring himself to say whether he approves of the decision.

While his critics bicker and dodge tough questions, the president is leading.

Matt Johanson

Castro Valley

President cannot give such an order

I disagree with the president's executive order on immigration. An executive order by the commander in chief applies only to troops, not civilians.

Only Congress can make laws. In 1948, President Harry Truman integrated the troops. It took an act of Congress to integrate civilians.

Only a dictator could give orders to civilians. At last count, I believe we are still a republic.

Charles N. Wilkins

June 30 Talk Back

Fremont

Good political theater but not much else

President Barack Obama's executive order on immigration was great political theater but poor public policy.

He caught the Republicans flat-footed (his real objective) but did little for the targeted immigrants. How many of the affected group will step forward (thereby admitting their parents are here illegally) and then expose themselves to deportation if the executive order is lifted in the future? Very few.

He knows that, and that is why he thinks the backlash from his union supporters will be limited. If he really wanted to fix the immigration problem but still put heat on the Republicans he should have reached out to Sen. Marco Rubio with an offer to work together on a modified DREAM Act.

As he has done so often in the past, Obama claims this action was needed because the Republicans have been obstructionists. This lack of leadership is the biggest problem in his presidency.

A good leader is capable of leading his friends and his opponents. This president set the divisive tone by ramrodding Obamacare through Congress, continually blaming others for his shortcomings and taking unilateral actions like this executive order, administrative decrees and recess appointments.

William M. Lau

Lafayette

Finally a decision that will help many people

The executive order of President Barack Obama to halt the deportation of immigrants brought here as children is a cause for celebration. Finally, the innocents caught in the crossfire of immigration will no longer be deported and persecuted for something they did not choose.

These people were brought to the United States as children and grew up here. The United States is their home. Deporting them back to where they were born, to a strange place they have never known, is more a case of displacement rather than deportation.

I applaud Obama in his executive decision in not only helping these people but also our country. By allowing these people to remain in their home and legally work and pay taxes, the country benefits.

As for opposition to the decision, is it really a case of immigration for them or xenophobia? There aren't any known benefits in deporting these hard working and innocent people.

While Republicans still continue to hinder Obama's authority, he has finally been able to make an executive decision that will help many people and our country.

Reyna Garcia

Castro Valley

Last-ditch effort to save his job

The president's executive order to trounce on the Constitution at the behest of many and appease few appears to define many other aspects of his term.

Juxtapose the earlier statement of the president, "Congress has imposed laws," to the June 15 executive order, " ... it is the right thing to do."

June 30 Talk Back

The flip-flop illustrates why so many are frustrated with the leadership qualities of the president. Leaders take decisions and stand firmly behind them. The president is merely playing politics, as he did with the same-sex marriage debate.

Thus, it appears, in the case of immigration, a last-ditch effort to save his presidency.

Rick Rodriguez

Danville

Obama had no right to make such decision

It is not OK to circumvent the Constitution and the checks and balances of our system. He has no right to do as he will. He is not a king or emperor.

Diane Jager

Bay Point

Obama's order wrong, Romney position lame

No, I don't agree, but Mitt Romney's lame explanation on his position about illegal immigration is not any different from President Barack Obama's same lame excuse for not enforcing the immigration law: "Because it's the right thing to do."

This is a baseless and twisted logic on why the law should be overlooked in the case of minors who were brought illegally into the country, instead of seeing this for what it is: just another wedge to keep avoiding the enforcement of the law, but, most importantly, to keep on chipping on the labor law that prohibits illegal scabs from working in this country.

As for the Republicans, supposedly opposing Obama's policy on this issue, we should only remember Ronald Reagan's amnesty, George W. Bush's compassion policy and the lame response from Romney.

It is not that Obama, or Romney, are afraid of losing Latino votes -- illegals don't vote. What they're afraid of is losing the financial support of the corporations who love cheap labor.

Romney's Bain Capital specialized in buying companies in financial trouble to dismantle them, firing, in most cases, union workers and then reopening the operation somewhere else with illegal scabs at a third of the previous wages.

In some cases, the operation has been restarted at the same facility after a period of time allowed for the disbanding of the previous workforce.

Leo T. West

San Leandro

Sadly, government is destroying nation

I absolutely do not agree with President Barack Obama's executive order on immigration. This is just his sneaky way of doing the DREAM Act.

These people are here illegally, just like their parents. They are breaking the law and all of them should be deported **back** to their own countries.

Our government seems to care more about the illegals and foreigners than the American people. The government needs to stop supporting the illegals and start thinking more about this country's children and elderly. It's sad to say, but our government is destroying America.

June 30 Talk Back

Patricia Hofer

San Leandro

Classification

Language: ENGLISH**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

Subject: IMMIGRATION (91%); US REPUBLICAN PARTY (90%); EXECUTIVE ORDERS (90%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2012 (90%); FILIBUSTER (90%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2008 (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (89%); TRUMP IMMIGRATION BAN (89%); POLITICAL PARTIES (88%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2016 (79%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (79%); POLITICS (79%); MIGRATION ISSUES (78%); CHILDREN (78%); APPOINTMENTS (74%); OBAMA HEALTH CARE REFORM (73%); HIGH SCHOOLS (70%); SECONDARY SCHOOLS (56%)

Industry: OBAMA HEALTH CARE REFORM (73%); HIGH SCHOOLS (70%); SECONDARY SCHOOLS (56%)

Person: BARACK OBAMA (89%); MITT ROMNEY (79%); MARCO RUBIO (53%)

Geographic: UNITED STATES (93%)

Load-Date: June 30, 2012

End of Document