

Letters:

In My Opinion:

Immigrants' pain without gain

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## Body

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There is dignity in honest work. People who actively seek and find jobs no matter the circumstance deserve every accommodation to raise themselves and their families independent of government assistance. Journal

It is disturbing to see how many people in our country complain about immigrant workers congregating on street corners or assuming that they are taking jobs that "Americans should have." These proud, earnest people have made it possible for us to enjoy Vidalia onions, peaches and other produce in our newly constructed luxury homes.

They have gathered the produce, completed the framing and foundations of the homes we live in. Yet we do not want them in our neighborhoods, schools or places of business.

We value their sweat and find it acceptable to underpay them and charge exorbitant rents for substandard housing, but we won't allow them to educate themselves or their children because they are "aliens." American slavery and indentured servitude were similar social constructs.

It is unfair to punish these people for our greed. If they are working and doing the job, they should be paid in the same manner as anyone else. Safety and work environment standards should be the same for all.

People who import workers without documentation, underpay and abuse these laborers should be held accountable. Why is it acceptable to permit labor without proper documentation but not acceptable to allow these same people to open bank accounts, attend school or live in decent housing, with protection by law enforcement?

DR. MONICA WILLIS PARKER, Social Circle

Dr. Monica Willis Parker is a family physician and medical director of the Emory Clinic in Social Circle. A Connecticut native, she has lived in Georgia for eight years.

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## Graphic

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Photo

Monica Willis Parker

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